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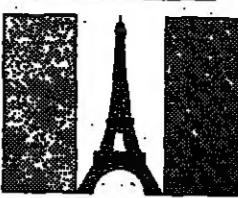
THE TIMES

FRIDAY JANUARY 31 1992

HEALTH
Life & Times 5

40p

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CHAR LADY

"Half the people in this country have dreams about the Queen... and half the dreams involve a cup of tea." Bryan Appleby salutes, the first 40 years

TODAY

DANCE ON

Shirley MacLaine may play "crabby old bats" but she still dances when she can, as Valerie Grove discovers

Life & Times, Page 1

SUN KISSED



Sunshine could be a life-saver, as the Health page — now appearing on Fridays — explains

Life & Times, Page 5



First ladies: Norma Major and Naina Yeltsin at Westminster Abbey yesterday as the Russian leader's wife made her London debut

Yeltsin ends era of enmity

By NICHOLAS WOOD

JOHN Major and Boris Yeltsin yesterday ended decades of Anglo-Russian enmity and laid the ground for the first friendship treaty between their countries for more than 200 years.

President Yeltsin reined back his demands for cuts in Britain's nuclear deterrent and indicated that he would stop aiming missiles at British cities. Mr Major, in turn, promised economic and technological help to rebuild Russia's economy.

A "hotline" is to be set up between the Kremlin and Downing Street, and Mr Yeltsin will return to Britain later this year. Mr Major will visit Moscow if he wins the election.

Last night, after signing a 15-point declaration of cooperation that will be enshrined in a treaty of friendship when Mr Yeltsin returns, the two leaders left for New York, where Mr Major will chair a special UN

Security Council meeting to mark Russia's return to the free world. On Saturday, Mr Yeltsin will join President Bush at his Camp David retreat to discuss the arms cuts they proposed this week. Officials in Moscow suggested last night that Mr Yeltsin might then press for still deeper cuts.

Aleksandr Obukhov, a senior arms control official, told a news conference that Mr Yeltsin intended to propose that America and Russia cut the total number of warheads for long-range weapons to between 2,000 and 2,500.

The latest strategic arms treaty has set a limit of 6,000. Major General Viktor Kholodenko added: "We are including in this number the warheads on ICBMs, land-based and sea-based ballistic missiles and on heavy bombers." Mr Obukhov said Mr Yeltsin

might also discuss cuts in long-range missiles with several individually targeted warheads, known as MIRVs. These are regarded as the most dangerous weapons and Mr Obukhov said their elimination would leave both sides with only single-warhead missiles — one of Mr Bush's key objectives.

When Mr Yeltsin arrived at Heathrow yesterday morning, he appeared intent on pressuring Britain to join in the arms cuts, saying: "Of course we shall be calling on the other nuclear powers — Great Britain, China and France — to follow suit." But after four hours of "warm and friendly" talks between British and Russian ministers, he was persuaded that Mr Major regarded the Trident programme inviolate. As he left for New York, he said: "The number of nuclear weapons

at the disposal of the UK is not comparable with ours and therefore the matter is not really worth any discussion." Tom King did say later, however, that Trident submarines would not carry their maximum complement of 152 warheads.

The defence secretary welcomed as "an important political symbol" Mr Yeltsin's offer to target Russian missiles away from British cities, even though Britain pays more attention to the capability of potential enemy forces than to precise targeting.

Defence ministry experts are to be sent to Moscow soon to advise on safe dismantling of surplus nuclear weapons and others will help the Russian defence ministry manage its armed forces in the new political climate — Mr Yeltsin's cuts mean up to 700,000 servicemen could

lose their jobs this year. Mr Major made no specific proposals to prevent Russian nuclear technology and manpower falling into the hands of unstable Third World dictators, but made clear that he was prepared to help.

On the economic front, the prime minister said he was ready to make available £280 million in medium-term export credit cover and investment insurance for Russia and the other former Soviet republics. Britain would also press for early Russian membership of the IMF.

Mr Yeltsin welcomed the moves, but said Western aid to his country was "by no means" enough. "There have been a lot of words about this. Deeds, we need, not words," he said. Norman Lamont later countered that, pointing out in a television interview that Western aid already exceeded the \$12 billion Mr Yeltsin had once demanded.

Yeltsin's visit, page 7
Leading article, page 15
Helping hand, page 19

Embattled Haughey to quit next Thursday

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

CHARLES Haughey yesterday announced his decision to resign as prime minister of the Irish Republic and leader of Fianna Fáil.

Mr Haughey will formally resign as party leader next Thursday, when his successor will be elected by secret ballot. On February 11 the new leader's appointment as prime minister will be formally ratified in the Dail.

He made the announcement during a meeting of the Fianna Fáil parliamentary party attended by all 77 deputies and seven of the party's 32 Senators. Among those absent was Senator Sean Doherty, the former justice minister who engineered Mr Haughey's downfall by claiming ten days ago that he had

known about a telephone tapping scandal in 1982.

Mr Haughey has led Fianna Fáil for 12 years and has been prime minister for a total of seven years. He clearly wanted to continue for some months yet but his coalition partners, the Progressive Democrats, threatened to pull out of the government unless he resigned.

Mr Haughey said that he was grateful to the thousands of people who had sent messages urging him to remain in office, but added: "I have decided that to end the political uncertainty, the time has come for me to hand over to a new leader."

Haughey profile, page 2
Leading article, page 15



Silent appeal

KEVIN Maxwell is to petition the House of Lords to avoid answering questions about missing pension funds. The petition will ask for permission to appeal against Wednesday's decision in the Court of Appeal that he was obliged to provide information to Robson Rhodes, the provisional liquidator of Bishoptongate Investment Management, which managed the funds.

Lords petition, page 19

French outraged over treatment for Habash

By PHILIP JACOBSON and RICHARD BEESTON

PRESIDENT Mitterrand intervened last night in a growing political dispute over George Habash, the radical Palestinian guerrilla leader, receiving hospital treatment in Paris for a stroke.

Mr Habash was flown there from Tunis on Wednesday and underwent emergency brain surgery in a Red Cross hospital yesterday. His group, the Damascus-based Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, carried out the May 1972 incident at Tel Aviv's Lod Airport when Japanese Red Army gunmen opened fire in the terminal building, killing 27 civilians. His group was also responsible for the June 1976 hijacking of an Air France airliner to Entebbe airport in Uganda, in which four civilians died when Israelis launched a commando

ing of the "possible judicial implications" of sheltering a man who has proudly claimed responsibility for many bloody terrorist attacks around the world. "If he is not particularly ill, his stay in Paris should be extremely brief," the president said.

Dr Habash's men carried out a series of hijackings and attacks, including the May 1972 incident at Tel Aviv's Lod Airport when Japanese Red Army gunmen opened fire in the terminal building, killing 27 civilians. His group was also responsible for the June 1976 hijacking of an Air France airliner to Entebbe airport in Uganda, in which four civilians died when Israelis launched a commando

Continued on page 18, col 4

Breast beats bottle in quest for brainy babies

By THOMSON PRENTICE
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

BABIES reared on breast milk are likely to be more intelligent than those who are bottle-fed, according to research findings published today.

The results of a long-term study in *The Lancet* strongly suggest that human milk contains a blend of hormones and other materials that improve brain growth.

Doctors have found that premature babies who were given their mothers' milk by tube had, by the time they reached seven or eight years of age, significantly higher IQs than those who did not receive maternal milk. The "brighter" children did better at a range of intelligence tests,

including timed responses to mental challenges and the use of designs and coloured patterns. The findings take account of other possible explanations, such as breast-feeding mothers tending to be better educated and from higher socio-economic groups.

"We haven't proven beyond doubt that human milk enhances neurological development, but our evidence strongly supports such a hypothesis," Alan Lucas, the researcher who led the study, said yesterday. Dr Lucas, the head of infant and child nutrition at the Medical Research Council Human Nutrition Unit, Cambridge, found that breast milk contains more brain-building materials than milk from formula pol-

The milk also has thyroid hormone and other natural chemicals that influence the brain's development, he said. Dr Lucas said: "Until very recently, these substances have not been included in artificial feeds, but the manufacturers are responding to the scientific evidence. What seems to be happening is that the mother is sending chemical messages to her newborn infant, through the medium of her breast milk, that regulate important growth processes such as development of the brain."

The accumulating evidence that, compared to formula feeds, breast milk is nutritionally superior, gives better protection against infant infections and some diseases later in life, and offers intellectual enhancement.

ment could have a big impact on public health policies, he said, and encourage manufacturers to mimic natural milk in formula feeds. The health department strongly advocates breast feeding, as does the World Health Organisation.

The research involved 300 premature babies, who were first studied at the age of 18 months. Premature babies are born at a stage of rapid brain growth, and doctors wanted to see whether, as previous evidence indicated, early diet affected their later performance. The new study that the milk itself, rather than the bonding process of breast feeding, or the mother's parental skills, affects intelligence.

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Kidnapper slips net of 1,000 police

By CRAIG SETON and PETER DAVENPORT

A MANHUNT was intensified last night for a kidnapper who eluded a massive police surveillance operation and escaped with a £175,000 ransom for the release of a female estate agent he had held captive for eight days.

The kidnapper, a 25-year-old Stephanie Slater, had escaped with the money from an isolated, bog-bound moorland area on the edge of the Pennines in South Yorkshire when senior detectives took a deliberate decision not to spring a trap to arrest him in case he carried out a threat to kill her.

The money was dropped off some time between 8 and 9pm on Wednesday. Miss Slater, unharmed but for a slight cut on her hand, was released close to her Birmingham home by the kidnapper at 1am yesterday, after West Midlands police organised one of the biggest covert surveillance operations ever carried out in Britain. Newspapers, radio and television had agreed to a voluntary news blackout.

Over 1,000 detectives from six forces and the regional crime squad, using several hundred unmarked cars, began the operation on Wednesday afternoon after the

Continued on page 18, col 1

Victim's hopes, page 3



Slater: told of "sheer terror" of kidnap

Building a royal dream

By MARCUS BINNEY, ARCHITECTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE Prince of Wales yesterday made his strongest attempt yet to influence architecture, announcing the foundation of his own Institute of Architecture dedicated to restoring the human dimension in building.

Speaking at the inauguration of the school, based in Regent's Park, London, the prince said that science had produced a mechanistic view of the universe. "We have

been persuaded to see the cosmos as a gigantic machine which could be experimented with and manipulated by man for his own exclusive use," he said.

As a result, man became a mere mechanical object, the prince said. "The sense of humanity's uniqueness is

Continued on page 18, col 2

Prince's speech and Diary, page 14

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Exit the great escaper who finally ran out of moves

CHARLES Haughey, the great survivor of Irish politics, has done much for his beloved country but he may not be remembered for it. Historians will find themselves preoccupied with the scandals which dogged his total of seven years as Taoiseach, and the repeated attempts to remove him.

"Charlie", or "The Boss", as he is known to his devoted supporters, has been around since the early 1960s, bringing to Dublin politics style, charm and charisma but also a Machiavellian streak which has convinced his opponents that he cannot be trusted with the affairs of state. He has inspired and divided his country. There is hardly an Irishman alive who has nothing to say about him: they either loathe or adore him.

For many, the way Mr Haughey pulled himself up from humble Dublin origins embodies all that is good in the modern free Ireland. He has come to encapsulate for them the cultural and nationalist identity of a country still deeply embittered about its subjugation by Britain. But to his detractors he has long been seen as the worst symptom of a politically immature state, a man with a grasping determination to hold on to power at any price, and yet who has achieved so little with it.

In a famous speech uttered during the last major scandal but one to afflict Mr Haughey, Dick Spring, the Irish Labour leader,

Despite his great love for his country, Charles Haughey, who resigns as Taoiseach next week, is fated to be remembered chiefly as the Houdini of Irish politics. Edward Gorman reports

marked him out to his future enemies in the party, who considered him an "upstart" using his new-found social position to fulfill his ambitions.

Mr Haughey, rapidly turning himself into a millionaire on the property market, reached the cabinet remarkably quickly as minister for justice in 1960 at the age of just 35. He then held successive posts throughout Fianna Fail governments in the 1960s until the arms crisis in 1970, when his career came to an abrupt halt.

In those early years Mr Haughey, an unabashed capitalist and republican, established a reputation as a brilliant, clear-headed operator who worked hard and fast and who was capable of driving through layers of bureaucracy and getting things done. He enjoyed his position as a good looking and much admired young man, often seen around the night spots of Dublin, who was already beginning to inspire fierce loyalty among his friends but deep suspicion among his rivals.

Those suspicions seemed to his opponents to be borne out when Mr Haughey was charged in 1970, together with another cabinet minister, but at the same time



Passage of time: Mr Haughey in 1970 and, right, in Dublin yesterday

with conspiring to import arms into the country illegally to help the IRA in Northern Ireland at the beginning of the current troubles. Mr Haughey was eventually acquitted, but in the meantime he had been sacked by Jack Lynch, the prime minister, and was in disrepute.

The episode helped to establish Mr Haughey on the more Republican grass roots wing of Fianna Fail, which has remained loyal, while in Britain it marked him out for suspicion which has coloured

the establishment's view of him ever since.

During the early 1970s Mr Haughey worked the constituency organisations of Fianna Fail, endlessly visiting local party activists in a bid to rehabilitate himself.

That he succeeded was largely due to his personal popularity, his undoubted ability to sell himself and the sympathy many in the party felt for him after the arms trial.

He came back to the shadow cabinet in 1975 and two years later was appointed minister for health and social

welfare. The remarkable turnaround in his fortunes was completed in December 1979 when he was elected leader of the party and Taoiseach, replacing an increasingly unpopular Mr Lynch.

Since then Mr Haughey has led four different administrations but has never fulfilled his early potential. In reaching the top he created too many enemies and has been continually beset by attempts to have him removed. As a result he has directed more of his energies simply

to staying in power than running the country, while also tackling a stream of scandals, some connected to his government's determination to remain in office, others to his promotion of people not suited to the jobs entrusted to them.

The worst period was during his second so-called "GUBU" (Grotesque, Unbelievable, Bizarre and Unprecedented), a description accorded to events by Mr Haughey himself, in 1982. A man sought for murder was discovered hiding in the apartment of the attorney general. Allegations emerged that two journalists suspected of receiving leaks from a cabinet source had had their phones tapped. Not long afterwards further allegations surfaced involving the bugging of a minister's phone. There were lots of minor scandals too, involving land deals and court cases. Despite not being implicated himself it helped to entrench an image which reinforced claims by his critics that he was not fit to run the country.

In power Mr Haughey has been very tough on the IRA, while sticking to his ultimate dream of a united Ireland. His relationship with Mrs Thatcher started well but quickly soured in December 1980, after her officials claimed that he had tried to misrepresent the implications of a meeting with her for British policy in Northern Ireland.

In opposition he fiercely

criticised the Anglo-Irish agreement — which he said would "copper-fasten partition" — typifying a generally destructive approach when out of office, but has since worked it thoroughly and become an enthusiastic supporter.

Mr Haughey was not known in his early days for the economic conservatism which has characterised his later years; when he has shown a realistic determination to limit public expenditure, to bring inflation down and to increase job opportunities in one of Europe's most impoverished economies. He has been an enthusiastic European who fervently believes in the single market and in the full political integration of Europe.

Mr Haughey is a personable man with a great sense of humour. He is a lover of Irish culture who lives in an elegant country mansion just north of Dublin. He also owns his own yacht and an island holiday retreat on the west coast of Ireland.

Throughout his long career Mr Haughey has demonstrated an amazing determination to hold on to power come what may, earning him the sobriquet Houdini. There has, however, proved to be no escape from the allegations by Sean Doherty, his embittered former justice minister, that he knew about the 1982 phone tapping episode.

Haughey resigns, page 1

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Annual education assessment

Third of schools fail their pupils

BY JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

ALMOST a third of English schools are still failing their pupils, Her Majesty's Inspectorate reported yesterday in the annual assessment of state education. Some independent schools are also "unacceptably poor".

Observation of more than 50,000 lessons in 7,000 schools and colleges showed no noticeable improvement on the past two years, in spite of government initiatives. Dr Terry Melia, the senior chief inspector, said that standards would only begin to rise when the national curriculum had "bedded down".

Although much of what inspectors saw during 1990-1 was at least satisfactory, 30 per cent of lessons in primary schools and 27 per cent in secondary schools were poor or very poor. Standards were lowest in inner-city schools, where more than half of 15 year-olds played truant and the turnover of teachers remained high. In one London junior school, only three of the 14 staff had been in post for longer than a year, and 31 teachers had left in four years.

Dr Melia expressed particular concern about persistent under-achievement in the seven to 11 age group, where 45 per cent of lessons were sub-standard. Class teachers were struggling to match the work demanded by the national curriculum for pupils of all abilities. Most primary teachers had gaps in the expertise needed to cover all nine curriculum subjects.

Yesterday's report, which will be the last to rely entirely on visits by the inspectorate if the government's schools reforms are implemented, is the third in succession to find fault with up to 30 per cent of lessons. The less academically able pupils, from some ethnic minorities and children in

disadvantaged areas were worst served. Although the state of buildings and equipment had improved, 30 per cent of schools still had deficiencies and almost half had inadequate libraries. Split sites, insufficient specialist accommodation, and maintenance arrears remained common.

Standards in grant maintained schools and city technology colleges were better than in most local authority schools, while independent schools varied widely. Dr Melia said: "Some independent schools achieved the highest standards found in

the country. Others offered unacceptably poor provision of a standard considerably below that generally found in the maintained sector."

Jack Straw, Labour's education spokesman, said: "The report delicately describes a system in transition. Most parents would better recognise the word chaos. Schools have had to face a different national curriculum document each week for the last three years."

The National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers said that teachers should be proud of their work. Nigel de Grouchy,

the general secretary, said: "To succeed for three-quarters of the time is very creditable, especially considering the chaos engendered by all this government's reforms."

Stephen Byers, who chairs the Council of Local Education Authorities, said that the inspectors' verdict meant that two million children were receiving sub-standard education. "After 12 years of this government's neglect of the education service, this disturbing report should come as no surprise. Our children are the innocent victims of this government's failure to take education seriously."

In an attempt to ease the pressure, the home secretary said that the closure of six institutions and a change of role at a number of others would not now go ahead. The prisons remaining open are Hewel Grange in Worcestershire, Oxford, Aldington, Kent, and Norwich (Brimpton) along with two young offender institutions at Finnhampton Wood camp, Buckinghamshire and Werrington in Staffordshire.

Museums shut

A strike by civil servants will close the British Museum, Tate Gallery, and National Portrait Gallery today. The action will cause disruption at the Royal Courts of Justice, the High Court, Passport Office, Employment and Social Security departments, and Customs offices. The unions want a 22 per cent increase in the London weighting allowance, which has been frozen since 1988.

Family in squat

A family evicted from a council house after claims of racist behaviour was last night squatting at another home in Huddersfield, owned by Kirklees council. Robert Maginnes, the father, said: "I have a duty to put a roof over our heads and this is the best I can do." The council said it had met its legal obligation to provide short-term accommodation but that the family was now on its own.

Phone census

A recorded telephone appeal for film extras, which The Times disclosed on Monday, merely offered to put applicants on a register, has been censured by Ofcom, the watchdog committee, chaired by Louis Bloom-Cooper. Ofcom said the advertisement breached its code of conduct and had to be amended.

CORRECTION

Yesterday's report of the slander action in which Edward Garnier appeared for the successful defendants quoted him as having made certain comments outside the court. We are glad to make clear and we accept that he in fact addressed these comments to the judge during the final moments of the hearing.

Man 'dumped wife alive in acid bath'

A WOMAN took more than two hours to die after being strangled by her husband and dumped in a tank of acid. A jury at the Central Criminal Court, London, was told yesterday.

John Bevan, for the prosecution, said that Cecil Jackson, a builder, murdered Dassa, aged 30, and tried to dispose of her body in order to collect £57,000 from a life insurance policy. Mrs Jackson, it was claimed, was not dead when she was put into a bath of hydrochloric acid in a locked garage.

Mr Jackson, of Manor Park, east London, denies murdering his wife on February 25 last year, but is pleading guilty to manslaughter.

Two pensioners passing by heard banging and a woman's voice shouting for help. They forced open the garage and "there was an overwhelming acid smell", said

Appliances must carry fitted plugs

BY DAVID YOUNG

ALL domestic electrical appliances sold in shops will soon have to be fitted with a correctly fused 13 amp plug after the announcement yesterday of legislation to be introduced by Edward Leigh, the consumer affairs minister.

Mr Leigh said: "Too many people are injured every year because of incorrectly wired electric plugs. I am responding to widespread support for this move from both industry and consumers. I believe that evidence now justifies the introduction of this measure, but rules alone cannot prevent accidents. Plugs should be checked regularly to make sure that they are safe."

Mr Leigh's decision follows the trade and industry department's review of the safety of domestic electrical sockets, which were introduced in 1987 because

Jill is 15

'I was kept going by thoughts of home and the family and the fact they were looking for me'

Kidnapped woman never gave up hope of release

By CRAIG SETON

STEPHANIE Slater described yesterday the moment when she knocked on the front door of her home in the early morning to be greeted by her dumbstruck and overjoyed parents after eight days of captivity.

She said: "There were lots of hugs and kisses. I do not think words were really needed. It was like learning to walk all over again. It was freedom and it was fantastic to be back home. It was overwhelming. I just want to get on with my normal life and get on with it. You just have to. If you dwell on it, you will not go anywhere again."

She said she had felt "sheer terror, absolutely sheer terror", when abducted, and added: "You cannot put that sort of feeling into words."

Miss Slater, an estate agent's negotiator aged 25, disappeared after going to show someone a house for sale. She said: "It was just like any other viewing to me. I had that many. I took me by surprise. I feel a lot better now I am back. It has been difficult. It has been hard."

Flanked by her mother and father, Miss Slater was speaking at a press conference after her kidnapper set her free from his car in a side street near her parents' home at Great Barr, Birmingham, at 1am, yesterday. After more than 180 hours captivity, she walked to their home and knocked on the door.

Miss Slater, the adopted only child of Warren and Betty Slater, said that she had been looked after in captivity and had never given up hope of being released. She said: "I had soup and porridge. I was well fed and had lots of KitKats and something like a bed to sleep on. I was allowed to listen to a radio."

The kidnapper forced Miss Slater to tape record instructions to her employer, the Shipways estate agent, to pay a £175,000 ransom. Knowing that her parents would

listen to the tapes had helped her to cope, she said.

Police would not let her give full details of her abduction, captivity or release until she had been interviewed, but she said: "I did not give up hope. I was kept going by thoughts of home and the family and the fact they were out looking for me. I was led to believe I would be released. I was reassured on that."

Miss Slater, who has worked as an estate agent for seven years, said that she loved the job and wanted to go back in spite of the risks, of which she had known. "It does pass through your mind, but if you stop to think about it, you would never do anything you would never go out at all," she said.

She said that she had not been reunited with Kevin Watts, manager of the Shipways office in Great Barr, where she had worked since last month, who acted as courier to pay the ransom that secured her release. She now wanted to get a party.

Mr Slater, aged 58, a haulage company employee, described the moment that his daughter came up the path to their semi-detached house. He said: "There was a knock... We were dumbstruck. It has been frightening and now I am very drained, but it is wonderful. We were told there was no doubt that she would walk through the door, and she did."

Mr Slater heaped praise on the West Midlands police operation. He said: "The police force that has helped this child is unbelievable. It has had a bad press, but that is a load of crap. These people are fantastic. We will never be able to repay them."

Mr and Mrs Slater, who adopted Stephanie at six weeks old, said that one of the worst parts of the ordeal was not being able to tell friends what had happened because of the news blackout. Mrs

Slater, aged 58, a factory packer, said: "There are still a lot of people who do not know. We have not been out since last Wednesday."

After Miss Slater was abducted on January 22, police intercepted a tape cassette and letter containing instructions for the ransom to be paid. The tape contained a message read by her, but clearly dictated by her kidnapper. She could be heard saying: "I can assure you I am OK and unharmed. Providing these instructions are carried out, I will be released."

The following Sunday, five days after she disappeared, came another sign that she was still alive. The kidnapper telephoned her parents' house. The call was answered by her father, who heard a man with a Yorkshire accent ask: "Is that Mr Slater?" When he replied that it was,

the man just said: "Listen..."

There followed a brief taped message from Miss Slater, saying: "Hello, it's Stephanie here, just to let you know that I am all right and unharmed. I want you to know that I love you and not to worry too much, and whatever the outcome, I will always love you. Look after the cat for me." Then, the line went dead.

Another part of her message, not released by police, referred to a news item of the previous 24 hours, confirming that she was alive at least up to the Saturday. Police thought it was an attempt to "put the squeeze" on her parents and, through them, Shipways to pay the ransom. Miss Slater had to be given sedatives during the ordeal.

The Slatters told Stephanie when she was 18 that she was not their natural daughter.

and although she was to make contact with her real parents, who live in nearby Warley, her love for her adoptive mother and father never diminished.

Miss Slater attended Churchfield comprehensive school in West Bromwich. Although she has had several boyfriends, she is not in a firm relationship at present. She enjoys going with friends to pubs and clubs and is keen on astrology and astronomy. She owns a powerful telescope and uses it to study the stars from her back garden. Miss Slater also writes short stories, some of them about highwaymen, and poetry.

She worked for an estate agent's next door to Shipways until she joined that company, part of the Royal Insurance group, last month.

Police hunt, page 1



Guarded: the house at Turnberry Road, Great Barr, where the kidnap began

Police learnt from mistakes

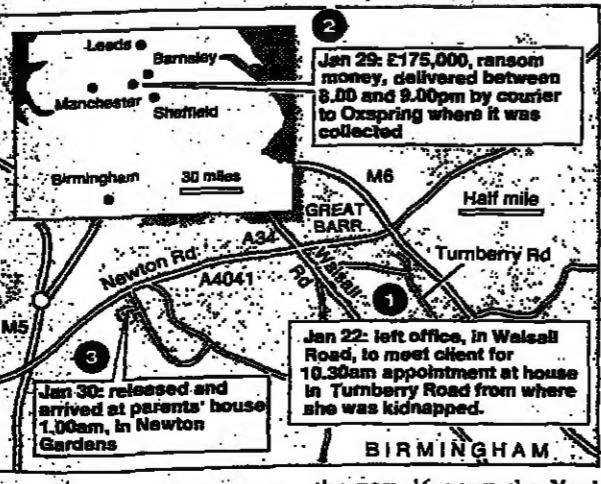
By STEPHEN TENDLER
THE TIMES CORRESPONDENT

BY STEPHEN TENDLER
THE TIMES CORRESPONDENT

THE VICTIM of the kidnapping, West Midlands police were following the advice of a manual of national guidelines on the handling of kidnapping cases. Written more than seven years ago and presently being reassessed, the manual's advice is based on the grim experiences of the Sevens.

In 1970, police experts in such cases was so limited that they had to turn to the FBI for advice when Muriel McKay, the 56-year-old wife of the deputy chairman of the News of the World, vanished. Two men were later jailed for the kidnapping of Mrs McKay, who was seized because she was thought to be the wife of Rupert Murdoch. A ransom of £1 million was demanded, but not collected and the body of Mrs McKay has never been recovered.

The other case that paved the way for change was the kidnapping and murder in 1975 of Lesley Whittle, an heiress aged 17, by Donald Neilson, nicknamed the Black Panther. He had demanded £50,000. The police



in the case came under criticism.

Within months of the girl's death, Scotland Yard had decided on a new policy of taking the press into police confidence in return for a blackout on details of a kidnapping case until its conclusion.

In November 1975 the Yard tried out the policy in the case of Aloïs Kaloğlou, the 17-year-old daughter of a wealthy Cypriot family, held to ransom for £60,000. For

the past 16 years the Yard and the press have continued to honour the blackout system, although not without difficulties. Four years ago the system was applied nationally. The press is normally briefed daily on developments and then free to publish at a agreed point.

Many recent cases have ended with the release of victims and few known ransoms have been paid. The manual does not advise against paying ransoms but police usually counsel against payment if possible.

The other case that paved the way for change was the kidnapping and murder in 1975 of Lesley Whittle, an heiress aged 17, by Donald Neilson, nicknamed the Black Panther. He had demanded £50,000. The police

First moves in abduction began three weeks ago

January 7: "Mr Southwall" telephones Shipways in Great Barr asking for details of properties about £63,000.

January 8: "Mr Southwall" visits Shipways at 9am and collects house details, including those of 153 Turnberry Road, one of about 15 properties he knows are unoccupied.

January 15: Shipways receives letter signed by "Mr Southwall", giving false address in Wakefield, West Yorkshire, and asking to view 153 Turnberry Road on January 22. Said he would telephone to confirm.

January 20: "Mr Southwall" telephones to confirm appointment at 10.30am on January 22 and is told for first time that a female employee will meet him.

January 22: Miss Slater leaves Shipways by car. At 10am neighbours see a man answering Mr Southwall's letter, posted near Stafford, was handled.

January 25 — 2.11pm telephone call to Miss Slater's parents. Man's voice is followed by tape of her voice, sending her love, saying she is OK and asking her parents to "look after the cat". Recording contains item of national news which had taken place over previous 24 hours.

January 27: police say that the kidnapper appears to have a Yorkshire accent and that there are similarities between Miss Slater's abduction and the murder of Miss Dart, aged 18, from Leeds, last July, after which detectives received ransom demand for £140,000 and letters from man claiming to be "playing a game" with police.

January 28: Shipways executives and police prepared to pay the ransom money.

January 29: police at 3.30pm launch a preplanned operation involving over 1,000 detectives after kidnapper sends new message to Shipways, one of at least two that day.

Kevin Watts instructed to take money to unspecified drop-off point in the north of England. Mr Watts travels over 100 miles northwards before leaving money in a deserted rural location and returning to Birmingham.

January 30 — 1am: kidnapper drops Miss Slater in a side street near her parents' home in Great Barr.

10.17am: police confirm ransom was picked up but no arrest made. Say that a decision was taken not to put Miss Slater's life in danger by revealing officers' presence to kidnapper.

1pm: Miss Slater at press conference to tell of her ordeal.

Firm will overhaul security

ESTATE agents issued new instructions to their staff, especially women, about meeting clients after the disappearance of Suzy Lamplugh five years ago. The abduction of Stephanie Slater has led to a promise by her employers, Shipways, that security arrangements for staff will be overhauled immediately (Craig Seton writes).

Miss Lamplugh, an estate agent's assistant, disappeared after going alone to show a male client around a house in Fulham, west London, in July 1986.

Stephanie Slater had been with Shipways only since last month and was waiting to attend an induction course when she disappeared. She would have been told on that course that women employees who went to see a client alone should never enter a property, but only open a door for a potential purchaser and wait outside.

There is little doubt that she would have been aware of the rules as she had worked for other estate agents.

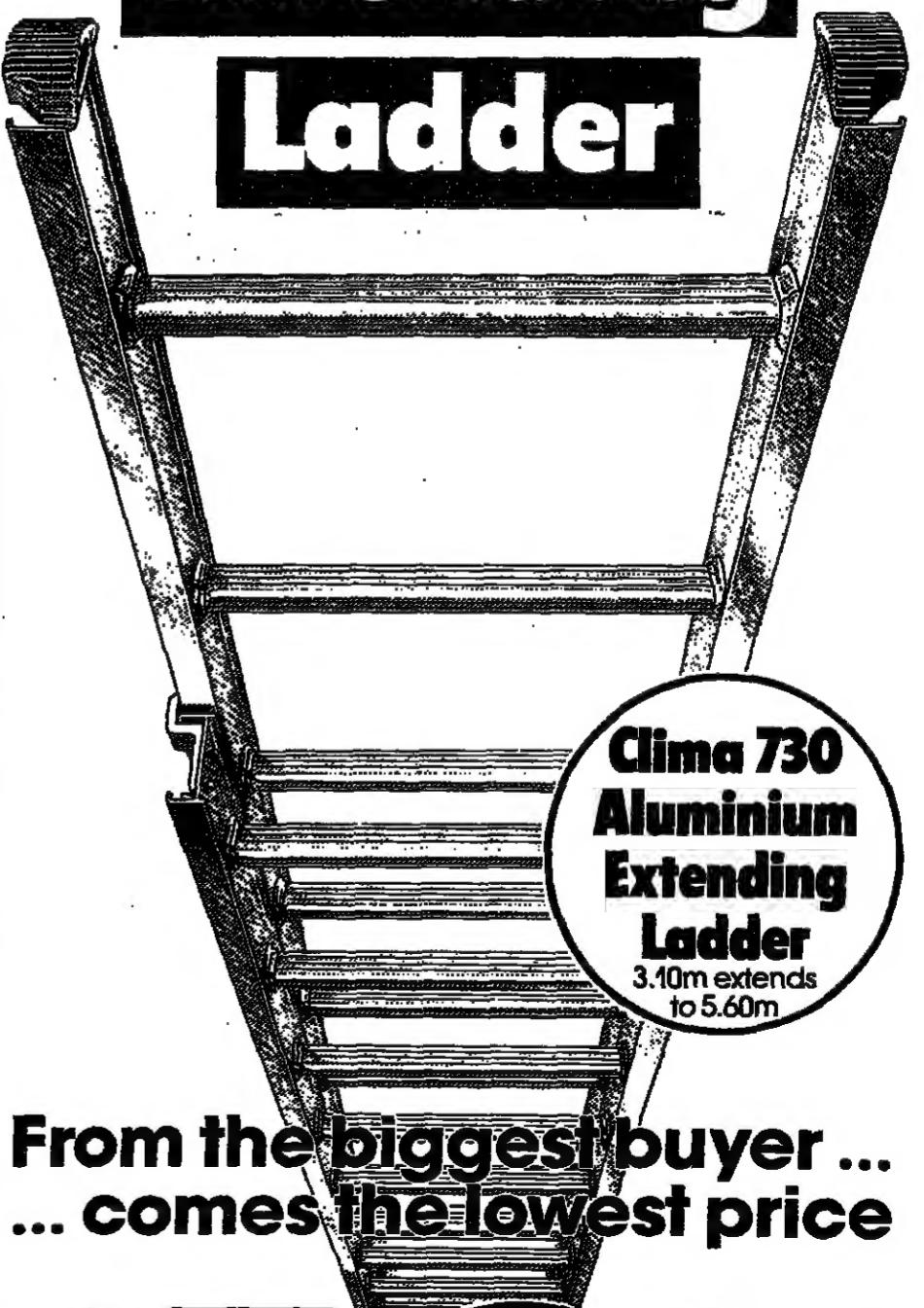
Miss Slater's kidnapper carefully planned the kidnapping to take account of the new caution among estate agents. He had telephoned the office first, then made a personal visit, asked for an appointment in writing, and telephoned again before meeting Miss Slater.



Reunited: Stephanie Slater hugging her father, Warren, after the eight-day kidnap ordeal during which she felt "sheer terror".

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Car dealers call for early MoT 'for safety'

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

CAR dealers are trying to persuade the government to force cars through an MoT test after only one year on the road, instead of three.

Malcolm Rifkind, transport secretary, has been told by the Retail Motor Industry Federation, which represents 13,000 dealers, that motorists are attempting to save money by cutting back on routine servicing. Tens of thousands of year-old vehicles, it claims, could be unroadworthy or causing unnecessary pollution.

The federation, which denies that hard-pressed dealers simply want to make more money from new MoTs, said that 40 per cent of three-year-old cars taking the test for the first time fail — as many as 800,000 this year.

The plan is seen as one of the most controversial on offer inside the transport department, where officials are not anxious to add to the burden on private motorists and business users by imposing a new £20 test.

The federation, which hopes that increasing worries over car pollution will force the introduction of an earlier test, said yesterday that the recession had led to cars covering higher mileages in their first three years of use.

High-mileage company cars — about three million vehicles in Britain — were also vulnerable because of the intensity of their use. With no legal compulsion on motorists or companies to carry out regular servicing, the federation says that the MoT is the only safety check available.

Neil Marshall, director of economic affairs, said: "This is not a question of dealers wanting to make extra money from MoT tests. There is little profit in the MoT. There are worries over the safety of vehicles which are being kept

longer and serviced less, which therefore means that many of them could be unroadworthy. We are asking the government to take this into account so that we can ensure that the vehicles on our roads, whatever their age, are safe as well as efficient."

Industry experts also believe that an MoT test a year after sale will be necessary to ensure that new cars are properly tuned so that they can meet exhaust emissions regulations, controlling vehicle pollution.

Alan Fulham, director of the federation's franchise retailer division, claimed that there would be substantial benefits to consumers because an early test would give more information about a car's service history.

Motoring, L&T, page 7

Freed protester to challenge jailing

By LIN JENKINS

A GRANDMOTHER who spent 15 days in Holloway prison, north London, for failing to pay her poll tax was freed yesterday by a High Court judge who granted her leave to seek a judicial review.

Ann Ursell, of Sittingbourne, Kent, was released by Mr Justice Potts who accepted that Swale borough council and Faversham and Sittingbourne magistrates had acted against natural justice in the way she was committed to prison.

The judge agreed that the procedures used, where Mrs Ursell was not recalled to court before she was committed to prison, were grounds for judicial review.

The solicitor said that as a married woman dependent upon her husband she has no

income of her own to pay the bill.

Sonal Chelani, Mrs Ursell's solicitor, said that Mrs Ursell was ordered by magistrates in November to pay £10 a week and made subject to a suspended warrant of commitment to prison.

Having failed to pay she received a further demand and she requested another hearing, but the warrant was activated and she was arrested on January 15.

The judge agreed that the procedures used, where Mrs Ursell was not recalled to court before she was committed to prison, were grounds for judicial review.

Dumfries and Galloway council decided to hold a warrant sale to recover two years' unpaid poll tax from Mrs Dennis, whose husband John is co-ordinator of the region's anti-poll tax union. The couple's bureau, television set and dishwasher were earmarked in November 26 for a warrant sale.

At a hearing in Dumfries sheriff court earlier this month Mr Dangerfield said the bureau was an essential piece of furniture under the Debtors (Scotland) Act, and that the dishwasher was owned by Mr Dennis. The sale of the television, he added, would cost more than it was worth.

Mr Dangerfield said yesterday that the order forcing the council and the sheriff

Poll tax objector wins £100

By KERRY GILL

A COUNCIL and a firm of sheriff officers who tried to take a dishwasher and television from a woman who refused to pay her poll tax have been ordered by a court to pay her £100 compensation.

Gordon Dangerfield, solicitor for Jutta Dennis, of Dumfries, has begun proceedings against the council and the officers in what is believed to be the first case of its kind since the introduction of the tax. They would, he said, be placed in the embarrassing position of having their own goods assessed for sale if they did not compensate his client.

Dumfries and Galloway council decided to hold a

officers' firm, Gray Scott and Company, to pay £50 each to Mrs Dennis was because Sheriff Lewis Cameron had considered they had acted frivolously.

"I argued that by forcing Mrs Dennis to seek a court hearing and then simply sending a letter at the last minute instead of being represented, the council and sheriff officers had caused my client unnecessary trouble and expense and had therefore acted frivolously," Mr Dangerfield said.

"We have spoken to Gray Scott and they say that they would be liable for any expenses for which there is a valid order. Meanwhile we will pursue the correct legal process to recover the unpaid poll tax."

They could be pointed [assessed for sale]. I cannot say at this stage what particular items would be selected.

"Tools of their trade are excluded by law but the council has thousands of pounds worth of video equipment which does not come into that category," he said.

John Stewart, the council's finance director, said: "The council has no legal obligation to pay expenses in this case."

"We have spoken to Gray Scott and they say that they would be liable for any expenses for which there is a valid order. Meanwhile we will pursue the correct legal process to recover the unpaid poll tax."

When it's time for you to take your pick

For true romantics what could be better than getting married in the idyllic setting of the Cayman Islands, Antigua, Mauritius perhaps or Bali? Or, if you've decided to stay home for the ceremony, what about a really super honeymoon?

The Worldwide Brochure is just the place to look and many of the hotels welcome honeymooners with special extras such as flowers, a basket of fruit or a bottle of wine.

Just remember to make a note on the booking form or tell your Travel Agent. It's no use relying on the fact that the hotel may spot the remnants of confetti in your hair when you arrive.

As it is such a special holiday, what about upgrading your accommodation a little. I mean a room's very nice, but a suite is even better and, if it happened to have its own private pool, it would be pretty near perfect, unless you'd rather have a villa to yourselves that is.

Which would also be ideal for anyone looking for the escapism of total rest as the ideal counter-point to a hectic life. A holiday whose primary objective is to

Liverpool rail shut by rising waters

By RONALD FAUX

RISING water has forced the closure of the Merseyrail underground, which carries 50,000 Liverpool commuters a day. The water table beneath the city has risen more than 40ft in the past decade, corroding lines and damaging electrical equipment.

David Evans, of the National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport workers, said that tide marks had appeared along platform walls, and that lines worst affected are having to be replaced after only a third of their normal life.

Water is leaking into the system faster than underground pumps can clear it and Merseyrail has ordered a complete closure of the underground loop line beneath Liverpool until February 10 to allow engineers to carry out urgent repair work and replace stretches of line. The system claims to be the most heavily used rail network outside London with 45 million passenger journeys a year.

A spokesman for Mersey Travel, which pays BR £25 million a year to use the lines, said that the problem had been aggravated by the decline of industry on Merseyside. Many factories used to take their water from the sandstone bed beneath the region and some had drilled their own wells, keeping down the natural level of the water table. The sugar refinery Tate & Lyle used to extract millions of gallons every week. As demand has fallen the water level has risen.

A £200,000 repair programme has begun to improve drainage to divert running water away from the rail lines. Four pumping stations are removing 6,000 gallons of water a minute from the system.

Mersey Travel said that a third of the population of Merseyside lives within walking distance of a railway station, which accounted for the popularity of the system. Extra bus and ferry services are being provided while the rail network is closed.

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Holiday that most takes your fancy.

JULY 1992

Liverpool
rail shunt
by rising
waters

Vitamin D seen as key to fighting disease

High level of colon cancer linked to lack of sunlight

BY THOMSON PRENTICE, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

CANCER patients are to take part in a study to see whether lack of sunlight plays a role in their disease. Researchers believe that vitamin D deficiency is a factor in the development of cancer of the colon. Only small amounts of the vitamin are found in food, and its main source is the action of sunlight on the skin.

Hundreds of patients with colorectal cancer will undergo tests and answer questions on their diet and lifestyle, including their exposure to sunlight during trips abroad.

The five-year study at the Hope hospital, Manchester, and Manchester University, is part of a joint project with doctors in San Diego, California, who will recruit a simi-

lar group of patients. The doctors have found that the death rate from the cancer is ten times higher among Manchester women than among women in San Diego, one of America's sunniest cities. The doctors believe that the difference could be explained by vitamin D deficiencies in the British patients.

Geoffrey Sandie, a consultant gastroenterologist in Manchester, the principal investigator of the study in Britain, said yesterday: "The amount of sunlight we receive may affect our risk of this disease. Vitamin D intake helps the body absorb calcium and we think that malignancy of colon cells depends on how those cells deal with

calcium." He said that if it could be shown that vitamin D deficiency was important in the cancer process, it could lead to recommendations for vitamin D supplements for sections of the population at increased risk of colon cancer.

More than 12,000 people a year in Britain die from the disease and about 17,000 new cases are recorded annually.

Dr Mawer said that there was no doubt that excessive sunbathing could cause skin cancer, but that a few minutes of sunlight a day were enough to provide sufficient vitamin D. "There is no reason to discourage people from sitting in the garden on a nice sunny day. The levels of sunlight in this country are unlikely to be damaging."

Can the sun save your life?
L&T section, page 5

JOHN ANGERSON



Horse power: Steve Kerr and Samson, a shire-cross, sweeping the streets of Bradford, West Yorkshire yesterday in an environmentally sound way. Three shire horses bought by the city council and kept at Bradford Industrial Museum are attracting thousands of extra visitors to the museum, and now the

authority has decided to give them a job. In a throwback to the days before motor cars, Samson, Ben and Thomas will be hitched to flower-watering machines, street cleaners and mowers, offsetting the £50 weekly cost of keeping each horse. Keith Thomson, environmental action committee

chairman, said: "It would be wrong for them to be stuck in a museum like stuffed animals. They need a regular diet of work. Horses are strong, steady workers, do not pollute the environment, are cheaper than vehicles, and help to balance the stress and pace of modern life."

Radio station told to tune in to the truth

BY MELINDA WITSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

CAPITAL Radio has been ordered not to repeat its frequent on-air claim that is "Europe's biggest and most successful commercial station" after a listener complained to the Radio Authority that the statement was untrue.

Capital admitted to the authority that its claim was just "presenter hyperbole" but said it should have been seen as such by its listeners.

The dispute comes a week before Capital submits its bid to the Radio Authority for the second independent national radio licence.

An authority spokesman said: "Capital could be considered the most successful station in the UK in terms of profitability and audience numbers, but it is not a national station and conveniently forgot there are national stations throughout Europe that are much bigger and certainly just as successful."

Only if it won the latest national AM radio licence, likely to be for a pop or "golden oldies" station, would Capital stand any chance of rivaling Europe's top national stations.

James Galpin, of the Association of Independent Radio Companies, which measures radio ratings and profitability, said: "If they ran a Capital Gold service [a radio station playing hit records from the past] nationally and achieved the same proportion of listeners across the whole of the UK that they have in London while attracting proportionally the same amount of advertising revenue, then they could become a big European station."

Capital was also criticised for two broadcasts ruled offensive and in bad taste in the latest listener complaints bulletin, for the final quarter of last year.

A listener found a joke

Fire at Linley's shop blamed on heater

BY PETER VICTOR

made by Chris Tarrant. Capital's *Breakfast Show* presenter, about a game called "Gay Monopoly" insulting to gay men and women. The authority said that the remark was "tasteless and out of context".

A Capital spokesman said: "Chris is totally irreverent to everybody and most of our listeners take it in the spirit in which it was meant. He never means his remarks to be taken seriously."

The authority upheld another complaint about Capital's *The Rap Show* during which all the vocals of records played concerned drug dealing and violence, and one described an orgy with a minor.

The complainant said the choice of records totally belied the concerned, caring attitude portrayed during the day by the station with Help A London Child and the Help Line.

Capital said it usually edited out, or made unintelligible, swearing and foul language in rap and hip hop music played on the show and would try to adhere more strictly to this policy.

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Lord Linley at his shop yesterday

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Parsons may take pleasure no more

BY ALISON ROBERTS

PARSON'S Pleasure, the enclosed swimming area on the banks of the Cherwell at Oxford, is to be closed to the naked male bathers who have made it famous. Pale-skinned dons have been disporting themselves there without lifeguards since 1865, but Oxford University, which owns the spot, has discovered that it could face legal action if there were to be an accident at Parson's Pleasure.

The University Parks curators also feel that it is time to break up the exclusively male enclave and let visitors in to one of the most beautiful parts of the parks near to the buttercup-yellow Angel Meadow.

Parson's Pleasure has spawned

many an apocryphal story. Hinged boards used to hang on either side of the river to block the view of female punters together with a notice asking them to disembark and walk a short distance to avoid the stretch of river full of gallivanting unclothed dons.

Inevitably, daring ladies would ignore the sign. The late Sir Maurice Bowra, Warden of Wadham, was surprised on the bank where he had been bathing naked with a fellow don. The latter blushingly put a towel around his waist, but Sir Maurice covered his head with the observation: "I am known in Oxford for my face."

Dr Robert Lucas, secretary to the curators, said: "I am not a bather myself, but I gather from my staff that for a few days last summer it was really

quite full. Obviously one regrets change if one is backward-looking, but this is going to make it a much nicer place for everybody. The water is quite unsavoury as it happens, although it's not dangerously so."

Dame's Delight, the female equivalent of Parson's Pleasure further up the river, was closed in 1971. Laura Craig-Gray, Magdalen College's women's officer, said: "It was felt that some people were using Parson's Pleasure to display themselves. I have heard of people punting late in the evening or at night, when the site was operative shall we say, who have been quite frightened. It's not something you really want to stumble on when you are not expecting it. I look forward to going there myself."

A

Injuries kill man 27 years after crash

A man hit by a car when he was six years old died 27 years later as a result of the accident, an inquest has been told.

James Grice, aged 33, of Longbenton, Tyne and Wear, apparently recovered fully from his injuries in 1965, but on new year's day this year he was found semi-conscious in bed by relatives after he failed to turn up for a family lunch. He was taken to hospital in Newcastle upon Tyne, where he died 15 days later.

Peter Cooper, a senior consultant in pathology, yesterday told an inquest in the city that Mr Grice had died from multiple organ failure brought on by a "very severe epileptic fit", presumably related to the car accident.

Relatives told the coroner that they were baffled as to how Mr Grice had suffered the fit after so many years. Dr Cooper said: "It is certainly curious. You are more likely to have a fit after drink."

Alan Thompson, also of Longbenton, said that Mr Grice, his brother-in-law, had suffered head injuries when knocked down in 1965. He had had some fits in hospital, but the last that anyone could remember occurred when he was ten years old.

Leonard Coyle, the coroner, said: "The epilepsy is a direct cause of this accident when he was struck by a car." He recorded a verdict of accidental death.

Church pastor risks jail term

A church minister who grabbed a student's breasts after ordering her to strip naked as they prayed for her to pass accountancy exams was yesterday warned that he may be jailed. Abiodum George, of the Seraphim and Cherubim church, in Plumstead, southeast London, rubbed the woman's naked body with a candle, grabbed her breasts and told her "The Lord says we should marry". Isleworth crown court was told.

Remanding George on bail for social reports, Judge Bathurst Norman told him: "For a priest to abuse his position in this way makes it a very serious matter... You may well finish up in custody." George, of Mill Hill, northwest London, had denied indecently assaulting the woman at her home at Northolt, northwest London. He claimed that she had tried to blackmail him.

Great escape

Two burglars broke out of a newsagent's shop at Barnstaple, Devon, after being sealed in by police and a glazier who repaired a window they had smashed. The newsagent, Richard Lelliott, faces a £350 bill for the glazier's two visits. Police said officers had considered it impossible to enter the shop, with glass still in the window frame, and a dog handler had found a trail leading from it.

Horse attack

A horse was nearly burnt to death after being tied by its tail to a fence by arsonists who set fire to a stable at Basingstoke, Hampshire. A passer-by freed the animal, which had suffered burns, and firemen caught it after it bolted into a road.

Job ticket

Jobless people on the Isle of Wight are being offered half-prize ferry tickets to the mainland to help them to get jobs. The Red Funnel ferry company is making the offer on weekdays "in recognition of the island's employment problem".

Shop blast

Two people were cut by flying glass when a shop at Loudwater, Buckinghamshire, was wrecked in an explosion when a cigarette lighter fluid fell off a shelf into an electric fire.

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Repossessions 'threaten marginal seats'

Homes slump hits Tories

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR yesterday condemned the government's record on housing and interest rates, and claimed that mortgage repossession rates were highest in Tory marginal seats.

Publishing an analysis of Tuesday's repossession figures, Clive Soley, the shadow housing minister, said the greatest increase in repossession rates was in the North West, where court orders rose by almost 51 per cent. The highest percentage increase was in Bury, where orders shot up by 260 per cent, and Birmingham experienced a 79.5 per cent rise.

"These are crucial battleground areas in the general election and the Tories will pay the price," Mr Soley said. He blamed John Major's action as Chancellor in putting up interest rates and his action as social security minister in halving income support payments of mortgage interest for the first 16 weeks of unemployment.

Bryan Gould, the shadow environment secretary, also argued that the housing slump was "decimating" Tory heartlands in the South of England. A Labour survey of house prices in 30 towns and boroughs in the South,

covering the constituencies of several Tory ministers, showed that house prices fell on average by 15 per cent between the end of 1988 and 1991. In a quarter of the towns surveyed, house prices were lower in cash terms than they were in 1987.

In the prime minister's Huntingdon constituency, house prices had dropped by 28 per cent in cash terms since 1988, according to the survey. Mr Gould said there was a substantial "feel-bad factor" running through the marginal seats that the Tories would be desperate to defend.

"Margaret Thatcher promised the dream of a home-owning democracy. John Major has delivered the nightmare of repossession and homelessness," he said.

Margaret Beckett, the shadow Treasury chief secretary, claimed that the Tories always forced down interest rates before going to the country in a general election "only to let them bounce back up again as soon as the election is safely out of the way".

Prime minister's question time in the Commons was also dominated by electioneering. Labour accused the prime minister of being "panicked" on Tuesday into making a pledge — that he had no intention of keeping — not to

raise VAT. Roy Hattersley, Labour's deputy leader, asked if the prime minister's statement on VAT on Tuesday was "a categorical assurance" that there would be no VAT rise.

John MacGregor, leader of the House, who was standing in for Mr Major, said: "He made the position absolutely clear on Tuesday."

Mr Hattersley, deputising for Neil Kinnock, countered that Mr Major had also made the position clear on April 6

when he said: "no honest government could give a categorical assurance that they would not increase VAT — no government ever has and no government ever will".

Mr MacGregor repeated that Mr Major had said there would be no VAT increase.

Last night Tory right-wingers urged the prime minister to adopt a bolder image in the run-up to the general election. Thatcherite supporters of the Conservative Way Forward group said the public now knew Mr Major as a pleasant, hard-working and trustworthy person. "The safety first image may have served him well, but a bolder image is now necessary," says an editorial in the group's magazine, *Forward*.

cated that the party would not accept a pact with Labour unless PR was extended more widely.

On Wednesday Labour outlined plans to take the first steps towards PR for its proposed Scottish parliament, using the additional member system. Labour officials made it clear that the system was not a precedent for Westminster or regional assemblies in England.

Although lack of time will prevent the bill becoming

Scottish plans attacked

THE Liberal Democrats yesterday accused Labour of using Scotland as a guinea pig to test proportional representation (Jill Sherman writes).

Charles Kennedy, the party's president, said that PR could not be "ringfenced" for one area without affecting the rest of the United Kingdom.

He admitted that the Liberal Democrats would be looking closely at Labour's new voting system for Scotland, but indi-

Hunt ban bill to get an easy ride

By OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE government has signalled a weakening in its support for foxhunting by allowing Conservative MPs a free "conscience" vote next month on the Wild Mammals (Protection) Bill.

Ministers are understood to be divided, but a decision was taken not to impose a whip on MPs to vote it out.

In spite of the significant shift within the Tory ranks, the bill's sponsor, Kevin McNamara, the Labour MP for Hull North, also needs to overcome two hurdles at the end of the second reading debate on February 14. He has to muster 100 MPs to vote for the bill to continue its passage, and win a majority in favour of the principle of a ban on hunting.

Although MPs' postbags are filling up with letters and petitions from the anti- and pro-hunting lobbies, Mr McNamara is working hard to win pledges from sympathetic MPs to stay in London on a Friday, rather than disappear to their constituencies, to ensure the bill is not lost.

If successful, the bill will be examined in committee.

Although lack of time will prevent the bill becoming



McNamara: trying to muster 100 MPs

law this parliament, a substantial vote in favour would greatly increase the prospects of parliamentary approval for a ban on hunting after the general election.

There are doubts about the drafting of the legislation which is designed to ban hunting by outlawing the use of a dog to kill, injure, pursue

Labour's offer to co-operate is spurned

By OUR PARLIAMENTARY STAFF

MINISTERS said yesterday that there was no question of taking up Labour's offer of co-operation in pushing through in a single day a bill to make computer evidence admissible in court cases involving poll tax arrears.

This follows Wednesday night's fracas over the Education (Schools) Bill when Opposition MPs attempted to force an all-night sitting. The debate was cut short when ministers decided that Labour intended to filibuster. They claimed that Labour had refused to say what concessions it wanted in return for allowing the bill through.

The business originally planned for yesterday, motions on revenue support grant, has been rescheduled for next week.

Ministers say that the day taken out of the timetable by Labour's delaying tactics has squeezed the tight pre-election Commons timetable and shown that they could not be sure of the promised co-operation on the computer evidence bill.

John MacGregor, the leader of the House, yesterday introduced the timetable motion to curtail debate on the Education (Schools) Bill, which privatises school inspection and provides for the publication of individual schools' exam league tables.

The measure cleared the Commons last night, though not before MPs had continued Wednesday night's acrimonious exchanges. Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, accused Labour of "embarking on a 'raft filibuster'". Jack Cunningham, shadow leader of the House, countered by saying the government had cut debate in a panic to clear parliamentary business before polling day.

AROUND THE LOBBY

Social fund gets £6.2m

The government is making a further £6.2 million available for the social fund, from which social security offices provide money for essential household items for families too poor to buy them.

Making the announcement in a written reply, Nicholas Scott, the social security minister, said that the new money was additional to the £40 million provided last August and the £3 million in November. The gross discretionary budget for 1991-2 is £277 million.

Ulster hope

Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, spoke of his "hope and expectation" that talks on the political future of the province would resume after the general election. Mr McNamara has drafted a new clause to exempt shooting, which the field-sports lobby believes could be caught by the bill in its present form.

Holidays fixed

John MacGregor, leader of the House, standing in for the prime minister, said the government had no plans to change bank holidays. May Day, he said, was now a celebration of the end of socialism.

Top team

A British Houses of Parliament rugby team is to play an Irish Dali XV on Saturday morning before the full England-Ireland international. The legislators will be playing out at Twickenham, but at the nearby Richmond College ground.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Private members' bills: medicinal products; prescription by nurses etc bill; Civil Rights (Disabled Persons) Bill, second reading.

Lords (11): Coal Industry Bill and Osteopaths Bill, second readings.

Looking ahead

The main business in the Commons next week is expected to be:

Monday: Debate on private member's motion on dangers of nuclear proliferation.

Tuesday: Motion on English revenue support grant.

Wednesday: Higher and Further Education (Scotland) Bill, remaining stages. Motion on Welsh revenue support grant.

Thursday: Debate on Opposition motion on the recession.

Friday: Private member's bill: Timeshare Bill, second reading.

The main business in the House of Lords is expected to be:

Monday: Further and Higher Education Bill, third reading.

Tuesday: Local Government Finance Bill, committee, sixth and final day.

Wednesday: Debate on changes in former Soviet Union.

Thursday: Charities Bill, report, first day.

UK tries to level cigarette prices

By JOHN WINDER

THE government is trying to reach agreement with other EC countries to reduce the risk of tobacco smuggling next year when routine frontier controls are abolished.

Lord Brabazon of Tara, a transport minister, told the House of Lords yesterday that Britain wanted other countries to raise cigarette prices towards UK levels for health, fiscal and trade reasons.

At present, the price of cigarettes varied from 32p a packet in Spain to £2.33 in Denmark, with UK cigarettes the second most expensive at 22p.

In a separate written answer, Gillian Shephard, minister of state at the Treasury, said that a wide range of anti-smuggling measures were being planned for next year by Customs and Excise. These would be largely intelligence-based, allowing additional inland resources to detect and deter any growth



Lord Brabazon: seeking equality in Europe

in illicit trade. Department of Health regulations, which require health warnings in English on all tobacco products sold in the UK, would also help to identify illicit imports, she said.

Under an EC agreement travellers will be allowed to bring in 800 cigarettes if they are bought duty paid. Duty-free shopping arrangements will continue until 1999.

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places of interest around the country.

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So if you're under 21 and want to make more of your money, make for your nearest Halifax branch or call 0800 500 235 and we'll send you further information.

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AROUND
THE
LOBBY
Social
fund
gets
£6.2m



Gorbachev: his "Star Wars" line continues

Echoes of trusted Gorbachev formulas carry on

BORIS Yeltsin has spent the past two days in intensive rehearsal for what will today be the first address to the United Nations by a leader of Russia. His advisers have promised an exposition of the new Russia's foreign policy. Mr Yeltsin has led his audience to expect a clean break with the Soviet past.

Yet, from Mr Yeltsin's statements on Wednesday and yesterday, it is hard to know whether we are looking at a new Russian foreign policy with a few distinctly Soviet characteristics, or old Soviet policy with a few new, Russian characteristics.

The old Soviet preoccupations are never far away. In his nationwide address on arms control on Wednesday, Mr Yeltsin stressed three elements that were *leitmotifs* of Mikhail Gorbachev, his Kremlin predecessor. He said the ultimate aim was a nuclear-free world, and the

sooner the better. He called for a world ban on nuclear testing and emphasised the pre-eminence of parity in all arms control moves.

Like Mr Gorbachev, Mr Yeltsin continued to distance himself from the American SDI or "Star Wars". He insisted that Russia would be delighted to co-operate with the United States on a global anti-missile security system as long as it was "instead of SDI". In his first arms control proposals, Mr Yeltsin also displayed the same penchant for counting numbers of missiles, launchers and warheads as his predecessor, preferring – in traditional Soviet style – gross numbers to proportions or any other measure of capability.

In the joint declaration he signed on behalf of Russia with John Major yesterday, Mr Yeltsin continued the Soviet predilection for written "friendship treaties", as

A leader of Russia will address the UN today for the first time, but Mary Dejevsky finds little evidence of a break with traditional Soviet policy

though nothing could be real unless it was set down on paper. The declaration, which, among other things, proclaims the end of the Cold War, is the sort of formalistic pledge of which Mr Gorbachev was greatly fond and which he even managed to persuade a selection of European countries – not to its external credit, Britain – to sign.

Mr Yeltsin's treatment both of his London visit and his eve-of-visit interview with David Dimbleby of the BBC, also betrayed some unfortunate traces of late Gorbachevism. They included his insistence that Russia does not really need "help"

as such, only "co-operation", even as the European Community is sending in thousands of tonnes in food aid and America is about to embark on an airlift to 54 cities which are incapable of feeding themselves.

In addition, he also offered a milder version of Mr Gorbachev's well-worn apocalypse scenario, which boils down to: "If you don't help us, then you will be the first to suffer." "If... our reform fails and conservative forces come to power in Russia," he told the BBC, "the arms race will start again in the UK and the US and other nuclear powers". Mr Yeltsin gave his warning a "capital-

ier" twist by adding that "the taxpayers will have to pay... billions of dollars, which is hundreds of times more expensive than help pay for our reforms not to last".

The presence in Mr Yeltsin's statements of so many elements redolent of Mr Gorbachev's Soviet security policy can be explained by the Russian president's use of many of the former Soviet leader's foreign policy advisers.

His recruitment two weeks ago by Yuli Vorontsov, the former Soviet and now Russian ambassador to the UN,

suggests a sudden recognition of the gaps in the knowledge and experience of his existing apparatus in this field. Mr Vorontsov, an old arms control and Soviet diplomatic hand, is likely to be the author of his arms control initiative on Wednesday and of today's address at the UN.

The other constraint on Mr Yeltsin's foreign policy is the need to preserve Russian national dignity at a very trying time. A 150 million-strong nation which has become used to being treated as a superpower is reduced to

some ways more real, because his people are behind him.

Russia is drawing in its horns of necessity, and the process will probably continue. It is becoming a regional, not a global, power. For this reason, the debut of Russia at the Security Council today may well be also its farewell as a global power. This would suit Mr Yeltsin, the Russian politician, and, sensitively handled, it should also suit the West.

● **Moscow:** Mikhail Gorbachev, speaking in his new role as elder statesman, last night offered warm but patronising praise for the disarmament initiatives led by Boris Yeltsin.

In comments to the Tass news agency, he emphasised that it was his own diplomatic efforts which had paved the way for the latest breakthrough.

MARC ASPLAND



A word in your ear: John Major being briefed during his press conference with President Yeltsin of Russia in Downing Street yesterday. The prime minister will chair today's summit meeting of the United Nations Security Council in New York, attended by Mr Yeltsin, which aims to develop the UN's peacekeeping role

UN summit seeks to set seal on end of Cold War

BY MICHAEL BINION, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

JOHN Major takes the chair today at an extraordinary summit meeting in New York of the United Nations Security Council – the first time the leaders of the world's leading security grouping have ever met together since the founding of the UN.

Building on the new dynamism shown by the UN a year ago in its confrontation with Iraq, they are aiming to strengthen the world body's ability to make and keep peace, take stock with Boutros Ghali, the secretary-general, of the challenges facing the world, and see how hopes for a "new world order" can become reality.

The one-day summit flows from a British initiative launched before Christmas. It was timed to coincide with Britain's presidency of the council and the inauguration in office of Dr Boutros Ghali. By inviting President Yeltsin, Britain also hoped to set the seal on the end of the Cold War, Russia's assumption of the Soviet seat on the security council, and international agreement on the control of Soviet nuclear weapons and non-proliferation.

So far there has been little fanfare for what could prove a turning point in the remaking of the UN. That is because Britain, eager to secure the participation of all 15 security council members, was careful not to trumpet the proposal until it was sure of their attendance. In the event, the heads of all the member governments are coming except Hungary and Zimbabwe, which have decided to be represented by their foreign ministers.

The thrust of the proposed declaration will be on reinforcing existing arrangements for collective security. Dr Boutros Ghali will be asked to prepare a report to be submitted by the middle of the year, on how money can be secured for peacekeeping and preventive diplomacy, how greater use can be made of his office to resolve conflicts, and how the UN's role in international peace-making can be expanded.

A large section of the declaration will be on disarmament and the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. Five permanent members of the council recognise that the break-up of the Soviet Union poses particular dangers of

London accord, page 1
Leading article, page 15

Rutskoi turns on leader

FROM BRUCE CLARK
IN MOSCOW

IN A fresh outburst of nationalist rhetoric, Aleksandr Rutskoi, Russia's vice-president, has pledged to resist the disintegration of his republic and implicitly backed territorial claims against Ukraine.

Mr Rutskoi's comments, in *Pravda*, appeared almost calculated to discomfort President Yeltsin as he seeks to establish his international credibility in visits to Britain and the United States. Mr Yeltsin's running-mate said the Russian Federation was in danger of following the

Soviet Union down the path of political collapse. "One would have to be utterly naive to imagine that the destruction of the Soviet Union will not prompt a similar chain reaction without Russia."

Without directly attacking Mr Yeltsin, he accused the government of being "ready to make any concession in the name of their social and economic experiments". The people would not stand for any "automatic identification" of the present borders of the republic with the historical borders of Russia.

The summit is not intended to commit the UN to any specific new course of action, but rather to reinforce its growing authority and agree common guidelines for dealing with future conflicts.

Credit to Russia, page 19

West fears Soviet scientists will sell weapons expertise

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

AMONG the first victims of arms cuts in the former Soviet Union will be the huge and largely-hidden army of scientists and engineers who worked on defence-related projects.

According to the CIA, the nine core ministries that controlled defence procurement were in charge of 450 research organisations, including about 50 design offices. About half the research done in physical sciences and engineering in the institutes of the Academy of Sciences was also supported by the military. At a rough guess, half a million scientists were wholly or partially dependent on defence funding in the former Soviet Union.

Of these, only a small fraction know enough to pose a threat in the dissemination of information needed to create nuclear weapons or ballistic missiles. The danger is, however, causing scientists to devise ways of preventing Soviet expertise from leaking out to Libya, Iran, Pakistan, or other would-be nuclear powers.

Yesterday's London discussions with the Russians provided no clear indication of how this is to be done, merely reaffirming both sides' commitment to the non-proliferation treaty and reaching an

agreement that the potential for co-operation in the destruction and safe disposal of surplus weapons in Russia should be examined. More details may emerge from the United Nations in New York, which President Yeltsin will attend today.

In the former Soviet Union, a conversion programme designed to use surplus laboratories for peaceful purposes has begun, but according to Terry Shinn, assistant secretary for international affairs at the Royal Society, it has had limited success so far. Contacts between the defence laboratories and the civilian

sector have always been

slight, he says. Reorganisation of Soviet laboratories is hampered by the economic situation and the rigid structure upon which Soviet science was based. The old Stalinist model of science involved many research centres, some with as many as 4,000 to 5,000 workers, controlled by autocratic directors whose word was law. The Academy of Sciences alone ran 522 such institutes in the natural sciences, 285 of them in Russia itself, and another 224 institutes in social sciences, history, economics and other subjects.

Much of the science is of

poor quality. Most

laboratories, except for those

in Moscow, Kiev, St Petersburg and a few other prominent

universities, are poorly

funded and equipped. Mr

Garrett said that the labora-

tories attached to the Sovi-

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and agriculture ministries,

which provided funds for

many of these, have now col-

lapsed, it is not clear what will

happen to scientists who were

working in them.

Where it was good, howev-

er, Soviet science was very

good. Mathematics, physics

and chemistry are regarded

as particular strengths, with

specialists in the top class.

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Drinks slur is denied

New York: President Yeltsin, in an interview to be broadcast today, disputes rumours that he drinks to excess. He also denies media reports that nuclear scientists of the former Soviet Union are working in Libya.

In the ABC interview, Mr Yeltsin says that he does not talk about political matters with his wife, Naina, in contrast to Mikhail Gorbachev, the former Soviet president who openly sought the advice of his wife, Raisa. "Well, in our family I am the boss," Mr Yeltsin declares. He adds: "Of course, my wife has a view of her own, and she is free to express it."

Denying rumours of excessive drinking, he says that he exercises daily, and that athletics and alcohol are incompatible. However, he adds: "I am not an ascetic." (AP)

French stand

Moscow: President Mitterrand, on a visit here, said France would join the nuclear disarmament process as soon as America and the former Soviet Union began to destroy their strategic nuclear arsenals, bringing them closer to French levels. (AFP)

Water curbs

Moscow: Strict water rationing has been introduced in the Russian port of Vladivostok where a dry summer and autumn left city reservoirs almost empty. Tass said: "Only one of the city's three reservoirs was reported to have water." (AP)

On the move

Bon: Half a million Germans, about a fifth of all those in the former Soviet Union, want to move to Germany, which they are entitled to do under the constitution. Bonn said: "The door remains legally and politically open." (Reuter)

Winter's tale

Moscow: About 30 people, according to Moscow radio, saw two "abominable snowmen" breaking into a military builders' barracks in the northern Russian town of Kargopol and later found tufts of fur on the barbed-wire perimeter fence. (Reuter)

Tea and empathy warm Naina to role of first lady

A NERVOUS grimace was transformed into a serene smile yesterday as Naina Yeltsina discovered that holding centre stage as first lady of a big power was not so bad after all.

The morning had not begun well for the Russian president's wife. She emerged from her Zil limousine outside Number 10 looking as though she was about to undergo a painful session with the dentist. While Boris Gorbachev, the former Soviet president's wife, would have stolen the show, Mrs Yeltsin seemed to be suffering from stagefright.

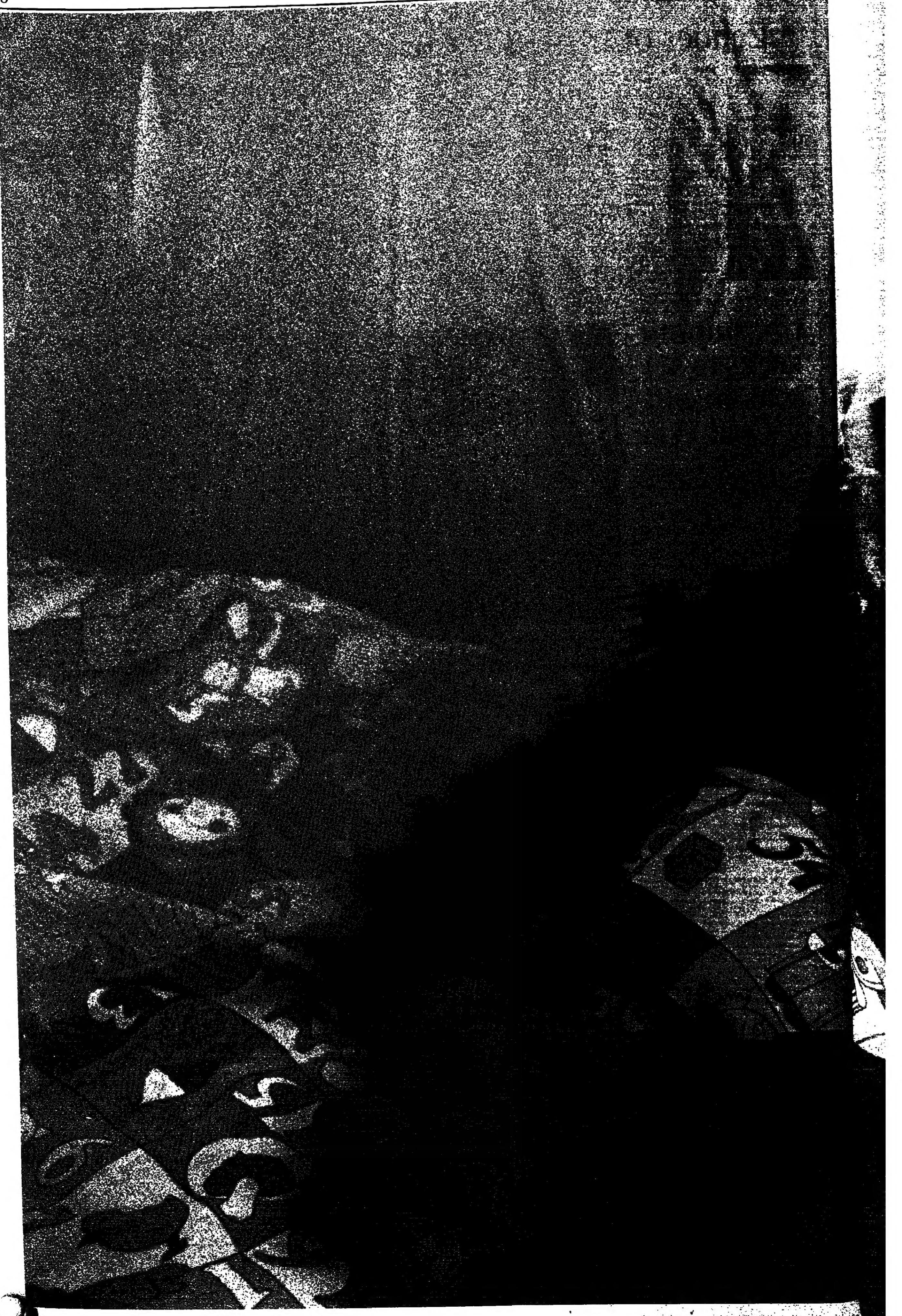
President Yeltsin, who

Do it in 100s

THE TIMES FR

8

THE TIMES FR



drill in life

THE TIMES

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YOU CAN'T GO WRONG WITH A VOLVO.

Saudis weigh up military mission

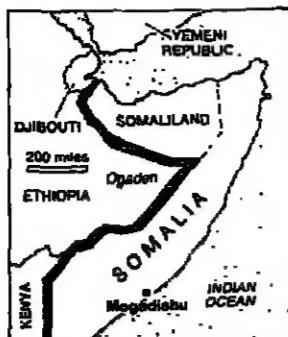
Somalia aid teams seek protection

FROM SAM KILEY IN NAIROBI

MILITARY experts in Saudi Arabia are studying a plan for armed intervention in the Somali civil war to protect aid workers providing food to millions of people facing starvation in the country.

At least 20,000 people have died in the capital, Mogadishu, since fighting broke out in November. Aid agencies, still operating in the country, say that the whole of Somalia faces a "holocaust" if efforts to provide relief continue to be disrupted by the warring sides and armed bandits.

The plan being studied by the Saudis was presented to King Fahd in December after a Belgian Red Cross worker and his Somali aide were murdered. The agencies say that, since then, about 40 Somali aid workers have been killed, as well as a UN doctor. The proposal was drawn up



people, who fled the fighting are now living in refugee camps on the outskirts of Mogadishu. An estimated 2.5 million others are facing famine in the hinterland. The SOS plan says that a "humanitarian force" should be sent to secure "neutral zones" for women and children.

The Ethiopian and Eritrean governments are also anxious to see peace return to Somalia. Hundreds of thousands of Somali refugees have fled to camps in Ethiopia and Somali bandits have destabilised the east of the country.

Supporters of the plan hope that Riyadh will pay the bill for the humanitarian force, although it will be a multinational undertaking. Werner Handl, the secretary-general of SOS, said yesterday that if the scheme works, such forces could be deployed in other blighted areas such as Liberia and southern Ethiopia.

This force would be strictly humanitarian and have no part to play in the internal politics of Somalia. It is essential that if the plan is to work we get a joint commitment from all interested agencies, governments, and both sides of the conflict in Mogadishu," Mr Handl said.

However, he admitted that the presence of foreign troops in Somalia is an improvement in relief operations, which presently — with the exception of limited medical aid — are at a standstill, would have an impact on the domestic political scene.

Mogadishu has been virtually destroyed since the fighting broke out between supporters of General Muhammad Farrah Adudd and President Ali Mahdi Muhammad.

The battles, originally between factions within the Hawiye clan, have now spread to include other family groups, and few believe that a solution can be found to the conflict without outside help.

A blueprint for the proposed commonwealth was submitted to the party executive in a 78-page report from a drafting committee in November, and a final report is expected next month. It is understood that most of the executive supports the recommendations, with the exception of one or two members of parliament whose constituents would be affected by the partition.

Oblivious to scorn, the Conservatives say that they have begun discussing possible borders with Chief Mangosu Buthelezi, the Zulu leader, and intend consulting the Tswanas soon.

A blueprint for the proposed commonwealth was submitted to the party executive in a 78-page report from a drafting committee in November, and a final report is expected next month. It is understood that most of the executive supports the recommendations, with the exception of one or two members of parliament whose constituents would be affected by the partition.

Far right offers new vision of apartheid

FROM GAVIN BELL IN CAPE TOWN

SHOULD white South Africans veto power-sharing with the black majority, the Conservative party is ready to present an alternative plan.

The far-right option is a commonwealth of 11 tribal nations, in which Afrikaners, Zulus, Tswanas and others would each be given large tracts of land in which to preserve their racial purity.

In the new apartheid, the Afrikaners would reserve the biggest slice for themselves, extending from the eastern Cape, through the Orange Free State, to the northern Transvaal. However, the Zulus would be given almost all of Natal, and Coloureds could do what they liked with the western Cape and Cape Town.

For people who did not wish to be associated with any of the tribal states, Johannesburg and its industrial belt, including the gold mines, would be set aside for them to negotiate a multiracial constitution as they saw fit.

NOTICE TO HALIFAX CUSTOMERS

HALIFAX BUILDING SOCIETY ANNOUNCES THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO INTEREST RATES AND THE INTRODUCTION OF CERTAIN ACCOUNT CHARGES FOR INVESTORS WITH EFFECT FROM THE DATES SPECIFIED BELOW:

NEW INTEREST RATES		NON-RESIDENT RATES					
from 6th February 1992		GROSS % p.a.	GROSS C.A.R. %	NET % p.a.	NET C.A.R. %	GROSS % p.a.	GROSS C.A.R. %
90 DAY XTRA	£50,000+	10.95	11.25	8.21	8.38	10.05	10.30
Monthly Income Option	£50,000+	10.60	11.13	7.95	8.25	9.70	10.14
INSTANT XTRA PLUS	£50,000+	10.25	—	7.69	—	9.95	—
PAID-UP SHARE	£250+	3.70	3.73	2.78	2.80	3.70	3.73
DEPOSIT	£250+	3.50	3.53	2.63	2.65	3.50	3.53
CLOSED ISSUES	Instant Xtra	8.75	—	6.56	—	8.35	—
	£10,000+	8.25	—	6.19	—	8.05	—
	£5,000+	8.00	—	6.00	—	7.85	—
	£2,000+	7.50	—	5.63	—	7.35	—

SPECIAL RATES FOR INVESTORS UNDER THE AGE OF 21. With effect from 6th February 1992, the Society will increase the rate of interest paid on certain accounts to young savers. For customers recorded as being under the age of 21, interest will be paid either at the appropriate tiered rate of interest or at the rate shown below, whichever is the higher. This new arrangement applies to Paid-Up Share, Deposit, Cardcash, Instant Xtra Plus, 90 Day Xtra, Instant Xtra and Monthly Savings accounts.

Gross	Gross C.A.R.*	Net	Net C.A.R.*
6.00%	6.09%	4.50%	4.55%

CHANGE TO TERMS. With effect from 1st February 1992, the terms of all Instant Xtra Plus accounts will be varied to allow the Society to credit interest to these accounts annually on 1st June instead of 31st May.

POINTS TO NOTE: Gross rates do not take account of any deduction for income tax. Interest will be paid gross, i.e. without deduction of tax, to non-taxpaying individuals who satisfactorily complete a reparation form to comply with inland Revenue regulations. Charities who are able to provide the appropriate declaration may also receive gross interest. Copies of these forms are available from any Halifax branch. Net rates are illustrative only and allow for the deduction from the gross rate of income tax. The basic rate (currently 25%) income tax may be reclaimed where the amount of tax deducted exceeds your liability in the UK and in respect of whom the Society has received an appropriate declaration. Accounts with balances below £50,000 receive no interest except in the case of investors, other than Maxi account holders, recorded as being under the age of 21. All interest rates and account charges quoted are variable. *Compound annual rates (C.A.R.) apply when full interest, which is paid more than once a year, remains in the account. Full terms and conditions together with details of interest rates, when interest is payable and account charges are available from any Halifax branch.

ACCOUNT CHARGES

- With effect from 1st February 1992, a quarterly charge of £2.50 will be debited to all accounts specified in Point 4 which have a balance of less than £50.00 for a total of 30 days or more during any quarter. The quarters end on 30th April, 31st July, 31st October and 31st January in each year. The charge will be debited to the account approximately 10 days after the end of the relevant quarter.
- With effect from 1st May 1992, a charge of 60 pence for each cash withdrawal (excluding those from any Halifax Cardcash machine) and a charge of £1.00 for each withdrawal by cheque made at branches and agencies, will be debited immediately on the occasion of each such withdrawal to all accounts specified in Point 4. These charges will be made only if the balance of the account is below £250.00 at the time of the withdrawal.

Trinity Road, Halifax



Sporting habit: Sister John Paul, who teaches 14-year-olds at Aquinas school in Woodbridge, Virginia, winding up to throw a touch-down pass to a wide receiver during a gridiron football practice.

Bridge partner presses her suit

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

BRIDGE has never been seen as a contact sport, but a trial now under way in New York could change the card game's sedate image.

Judi Radin, a top-class player, has gone on trial in Manhattan criminal court charged with assaulting her long-standing bridge partner and lesbian lover. She faces up to a year in jail if convicted of an assault stemming from a dispute with Kathie Wei, her companion, last year, in the flat they shared in Manhattan's Upper East Side. A verdict is expected this week.

The couple's professional partnership has dominated

the world of women's contract bridge for the past two decades. Together they have won world championships and millions of dollars in prize money.

The two teamed up when Mrs Wei's late husband, C.C. Wei, a Chinese-born shipping magnate and bridge aficionado, spotted Mrs Radin, who had won renown in the bridge world while playing for Colombia. University in New York. The partnership blossomed and the two became stars. In 1978, they won the world pairs championship and have several times won world women's team titles.

When Mr Wei died four years ago, Mrs Radin, now aged 37, divorced her husband and moved in with Mrs Wei, who is 24 years her senior. The two signed a "living contract" which guaranteed Mrs Radin specific fees and bonuses for continuing their professional relationship and promised a quarter of Mrs Wei's multimillion-dollar estate in her will.

Their relationship ended in violence during a quarrel over money at their flat in East 64th Street on February 20 last year. In court papers, Mrs Wei says she was walking out of the bathroom when Mrs Radin began harassing her about money. Each accused the other of hitting her with a 2lb Chinese metal exercise ball. The charges against Mrs Wei, who was bruised in the incident, were dropped, leaving Mrs Radin to stand trial.

Mrs Radin has filed a \$6 million (£3.3 million) lawsuit in which she claims that her bridge-playing contract with the Chinese-born heiress has been breached.

Sex claims boost Clinton campaign

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

WHEN a frontrunner stumbled, in theory those trailing catch him up. The race for the Democratic presidential nomination is defying that simple logic. Far from helping Bill Clinton's rivals, the commotion over his alleged adultery has left them struggling for survival. His troubles have attracted reporters and television crews like iron filings to a magnet, leaving his little-known competitors campaigning in a vacuum.

The Arkansas governor has become a household name, but his rivals have been sliding back into obscurity. His fundraising may have benefited while theirs has stagnated. His poll ratings have increased marginally while his peers have stuck or slipped.

"This reminds me of the Cuomo-watch," Paul Tsongas said, referring to the endless ditherings of the New York governor that overshadowed the declared candidates' campaigns in the autumn. Chris Spriore, the Democratic chairman in New Hampshire, where the nation's first primary is less than three weeks away, said: "It has diverted attention from everyone's campaign." John White, one of Mr Spriore's predecessors, said all the candidates were "really disadvantaged by this trash."

Nor could the declared candidates be sure of benefiting in the increasingly unlikely event that Mr Clinton is forced to abandon his campaign. Against that eventualities, aides to big-name Democrats, including Richard Gephardt, the House leader, and Senators Al Gore and Lloyd Bentsen, have been discreetly checking registration deadlines for later primaries.

This curious situation helps to explain why the tapes of Mr Clinton's conversations with Gennifer Flowers, his alleged lover, have spawned a second dispute fast gaining prominence in New York, which has the most convention delegates after California. Unable to engage Mr Clinton on political issues, unable to attack him on the basis of Ms Flowers' unproven allegations, his rivals have seized on his observations in those tapes that Mr Cuomo acted like a mafioso and nobody whom Bob Kerrey was "screwing" because he was single.

Mr Kerrey, displaying a new-found aggression, called the remark about himself "unnecessarily insulting" and said Mr Clinton's anti-Italian sentiments raised serious doubts about his character.

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April 1992

Serb militants force envoy to confront flaws in UN proposal

FROM TIM JUDAH IN KRAJINA

THE leaders of the militant Serbian enclave of Krajina celebrated into the early hours of the morning after telling Marrack Goulding, the United Nations envoy, that they would not comply with the UN peace plan for Yugoslavia.

Their message struck home. "More work needs to be done," Mr Goulding commented on Wednesday night after saying he could not recommend the dispatch of a projected 10,000-strong UN peacekeeping force. "All those on whom the success of such an operation would depend need to have accepted it and be ready to co-operate with it when deployed."

Dr Milan Babic, the president of the self-proclaimed breakaway Serb republic of Krajina in Croatia's territory, pointed out to Mr Goulding that none of the parties to the peace plan, negotiated by Cyrus Vance, the UN special envoy, had ever consulted the people who run the areas where the force is to be deployed. He also told him that he and his colleagues would want any force to be deployed along the frontline, now dubbed "our border", and not "spotted" across their territory.

Krajina's leaders also refuse to countenance the disarming of their men and the withdrawal of the Yugoslav army if the same conditions are not applied to the Croats. They point to the fact that President Tudjman of Croatia has vowed that if the UN

does not help it to retrieve its lost territories, Zagreb would resume the war.

"Babic is playing a high-risk game," commented one UN official. "But he's doing it with some panache." Dr Babic and his people are increasingly isolated and Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian president, has denounced Dr Babic as an obstacle to peace.

It is not an argument that impresses Krajina, where Dr Babic's popularity is high. Mr Milosevic, finding it politically expedient to talk peace rather than nationalism, has changed his tune but has not broken Krajina's spirit. Cut off from its economic hinterland on the Adriatic coast, Krajina is totally dependent on Serbia for oil and food, but Mr Milosevic has not seen fit to tighten the economic screws.

The people of Krajina are depressed and subdued but they are not yet beaten. "Don't give us empty talk tell us what we are going to do," shouted an angry woman at a meeting of management and workers at the Krajinka clothes factory this week. For four months 800 Krajinka workers, mostly women, have had no work and no pay. Their factory exported the bulk of its produce to Germany, a market that has vanished with the war.

No one knows whether a UN peacekeeping force will come, or if Yugoslavia still exists: the Republic of Serbia-Krajina is recognised by no one. There are also ten-



Silk cuts: Givenchy models presenting a printed shirt dress in violet with kick pleats and a long strapless evening dress with gold embroidery bustier on the final day of the Paris haute couture show yesterday



Shamir begins to woo voters

FROM RICHARD BEESTON
IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL'S ruling Likud Party began electioneering in earnest yesterday when Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister, and three senior cabinet members promised that only their brand of right-wing policies could give the country peace and security.

The day of speechmaking coincided with the opposition Labour party's decision to approve June 23 as the election date. Opinion polls published by the Smith Research Institute put Likud ahead with 32 per cent and Labour on 27 per cent.

Mr Shamir criticised the present conduct of the Arab parties in the Middle East peace talks, but vowed to continue the process.

Speaking on his return from the Moscow peace talks, David Levy, the foreign minister, said he was hopeful that Israel's first direct talks with Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states would lead eventually to regional co-operation on the economy, the environment and arms control.

Italy opts for early elections

FROM PAUL BOMPARD
IN ROME

GIULIO Andreotti, the Italian prime minister, yesterday announced the end of Italy's 49th post-war government, opening the way for early elections on April 5.

The election campaign is expected to be the most bitterly fought since the Communist-Christian Democrat showdown of 1953 and could lead to radical institutional reforms and, possibly, a second republic to replace the 1948 constitution.

The official reason given for holding general elections six months early is that the government has achieved what it had set out to do. It is widely recognised, however, that Signor Andreotti's government is paralysed by tensions within the four-party coalition of Christian Democrats, Socialists, Social Democrats and Liberals.

Italy now appears to be split. On the one hand an entrenched political establishment claims the right to make constitutional changes, on the other a growing number of reformist Italians, with no faith in the establishment's capacity to reform itself, wants concrete reforms immediately. The election could fuse the reformist movements into a solid front, but could also splinter Italy's political forces even further.

President Cossiga has rejected his figurehead role and attacked inefficiency and corruption in the system.

German navy seizes arms cargo ship

FROM CLIAN MURRAY IN BONN

A GERMAN cargo ship, with 16 battle tanks for Syria on board, is being escorted home by a frigate after being intercepted in the Mediterranean just off Gibraltar.

The order to track down the ship was issued from the chancellery in Bonn after intelligence reports that the vessel was carrying sophisticated weapons to the Middle East. The chancellery moved swiftly because the government is sensitive to worldwide criticism that it has failed in the past to stop the export of arms and dangerous technology to trouble spots.

Last year, intelligence agents discovered that the Czechoslovak army was selling Soviet-designed T-72 tanks to Damascus for hard currency. On January 12, the German-registered Godewind arrived in the Polish port of Szczecin. Three days later, the ship put into Hamburg to collect an excavator

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The text of Prince Charles's speech on architecture

Building my dream of future harmony

The Prince of Wales outlines his plan to humanise our towns and cities

I remember when I was much younger feeling very disturbed by the trends of the time, which seemed to be directed towards destroying the traditional foundations on which so many of our human values had been based for thousands of years. I remember reading that God was dead. I remember familiar buildings vanishing, bombsites in London being redeveloped in a way that was alien to the fabric of the city. I remember the centres of our old towns being ripped apart in the interests of what was called "progress" and being replaced by the uncompromising starkness of purely functional buildings.

I remember vast housing estates mushrooming around our cities, with no sensitivity whatsoever to the landscape. I remember hedge-rows being uprooted by the mile, wet places and wild areas being drained and "improved", and everywhere this urgent, almost missionary, zeal to sweep away any traditional bric-a-brac which had outlived its usefulness. All the professions seemed to encourage it. The "experts" and scientists encouraged it.

As I grew older I wondered why I had minded so much about the changes that were taking place (like many other people, I suspect, I had not dared to express my true feelings for fear of being thought ignorant). Then I learnt about Descartes and scientific rationalism. I discovered that this led to a mechanistic view of the universe and of man's place in it, and I began to realise what lay at the root of this feverish revolution.

In the simplest terms, we were being persuaded to see the cosmos as a gigantic machine which could be examined, experimented with and manipulated by man for his exclusive use. Everything could be explained by science, and anything that couldn't be so explained simply didn't exist. According to this view, man himself becomes a mere mechanical object, and any notion of a metaphysical reality disappears. The sense of humanity's uniqueness is thrown out, to be replaced by an egocentric world view which denies that all-encompassing feeling of the sacred and stresses the purely rational.

I have often wondered why I was not seduced by this logical but soulless philosophical approach. The pressures to yield to it have been and still are enormous. Those who resist are described as at best eccentric, at worst dozy cranks. The temptation to conform can be very powerful. So why haven't I? What is it that produces this overwhelming feeling that the

universe is based on profound principles which inspire a continual sense of awe and reverence? It is an awareness of something beyond the confines of self, and it becomes more evident when in the presence of great beauty. Many people will doubtless recognise such inexplicable feelings as are induced by the proportions of a building: the extraordinary sense of "harmony" that such proportions can engender. Many people will feel the same when they see a landscape sculpted and fashioned over thousands of years by the hands of men whose customs, passed down orally from one generation to another, and whose reverence for the natural world led them to create a harmonious synergy with their surroundings.

I can understand how quickly the industrial revolution, when it

ed the mathematical and geometric principles that were inherited in turn by the Greeks. The whole of European culture is based on our Graeco-Roman heritage, at the root of which lies what many consider to be these profound and, indeed, sacred principles. I believe that there is a growing desire on the part of many people to search for this missing part of their experience, which has been so obviously derided and abandoned in the education of architects.

In many ways, architecture is the most effective way to translate both the unconscious experience of the heart and the conscious principles of the mind into a "concrete" way of enclosing space. What I hope will be taught and explored in the new Institute of Architecture, which I am launching tonight, is the idea that the architecture which nourishes the

forms of architecture, based on new materials, new ways of building and new technologies.

This is where I hope my Institute will become a kind of crucible in which the architecture of the 21st century can be forged. I hope that the students who come to this new Institute will be able to play an imaginative role in society; that they will be able to set in motion new processes of construction, new forms of management and new ways of building towns. I hope students at my Institute of Architecture will base the architecture of the future on principles and on knowledge about the nature of space, uniting objective knowledge with profound human feeling. My aim in establishing this Institute is, above all, to respond to what I believe is a widely held desire among architecture students for a course of study which reflects the indefinable aspects of life and reintroduces the delicate thread of wisdom that connects us with our forefathers. I would like the students to appreciate that there are certain timeless values which we can learn from the past and apply to the future. I should like the students to learn that in order to design with sensitivity and an appropriate sense of reverence for natural surroundings, they first need to learn humility and how to observe nature.

This is not to say that technology should be decried, but rather, that the Institute should encourage experiment in order to find more sensitive and imaginative ways of using modern materials to create buildings which reflect a hierarchy of scale.

The aim is to produce practitioners, not just theorists. The Institute's curriculum will have all the rigour consistent with the technical and economic demands of such a complex profession, but these will be placed within the wider context of our history and our culture, and indeed other people's cultures and geography.

The overriding aims of my Institute are to bring people together, to help end the fragmentation of building disciplines, and to break down the demoralising barriers between the values of professionals and those of the people affected by developments. I would like the students to leave with a feeling that they have experienced something rather special in their lives, that a new dimension of life has been revealed to them. They will need to discover these great truths, I believe, in order to be the beacons of civilised values in a world increasingly in need of real meaning and of that most precious of commodities: hope.



Patron prince: setting out to create an architecture of the heart for the next century

comes to each country, helps to eliminate that innocent and unquestioning sense of the sacred in man. And yet, despite all the dramatic changes that have been wrought by science and technology, and all the remarkable benefits they have brought us, there remains deep in the soul (if I dare use that word) a persistent and unconscious anxiety that something is missing — some vital ingredient that makes life worth living. We are told that our contemporary built environment must reflect the "spirit of the age". But I am afraid, that we are creating an "age without spirit". The ancients seemed to understand the subtle blend of matter and spirit in the universe. Around it, the ancient Egyptians formulated

spirit is not so much a traditional architecture which apes the past as a particular kind of architecture, the forms, plans and materials of which are based on human feeling.

Recent research has begun to identify the forms and types of organisation which enable such an "architecture of the heart". Perhaps surprisingly, the kinds of buildings that tend to appeal to the human heart, and which make us feel at home, are from a very specific range, very particular in style, organisation and physical character. These are the buildings which we have always loved. They include, of course, all of the great traditional architectures of the past, enormously varied as these are, but they also include new

An idea that will make Major's mark

Peter Riddell on the Charter's significance

A WEEK IN POLITICS

John Major may turn out to be more radical in changing government than Margaret Thatcher ever was. By temperament he underestimates himself, just as she often exaggerated her achievements. While antagonising many in Whitehall, Mrs Thatcher left the basic structure of the civil service intact. But Mr Major, who on the surface is friendlier to the idea of public service, supports far-reaching changes in both Whitehall and local government. It is easy to underestimate Mr Major, to dismiss him as a Mr Pooter with mundane concerns awkwardly expressed. But his "ordinary man" approach masks one of the steadiest politicians I know.

In this respect the Citizen's Charter — Mr Major's Big Idea — reflects an appreciation of the public's frustrations about distant services. Of course, his comment a few months ago about wanting "to produce something like the Citizen's Charter ever since I was in my teens" can be ridiculed — former bookie's runner day-dreams about reducing delays from motorway cones while watching Ken Barrington take five hours to score a century at the Oval. But the charter is not just a public-relations exercise. If people can rely on the man from the electricity or gas board turning up at an agreed time and they do not have to wait around for hours at a hospital, then the charter will have produced real benefits.

Naturally, the grand goals in 17 charters for patients, parents and, this week, travellers beg a lot of questions about how the delivery of services can be improved. Trying to achieve by April the guaranteed maximum hospital waiting-lists of two years has resulted in longer delays for the far larger number of people in line for operations — often more urgent — with waiting periods of less than a year.

But the charter is merely the public face of a deeper debate about how government can be made more efficient. There is a direct line from the Fulton report of 1968, through the Heath government's reforms, via the activities of Derek Rayner and Robin Gibbs with the efficiency unit and the financial management initiative, up to the Next Steps initiative and the Citizen's Charter. Each has tried to identify costs and delegate management, though within the public service framework, preserving lifetime career structures and close links with Whitehall. Major has been conservative about its own structure.

The aim of the Next Steps initiative has been to set up semi-independent agencies with performance targets. These agencies range from social security benefits to the royal parks, and have various degrees of independence. But, as a report from the Institute for Public Policy Research argues, no one has resolved how to combine devolved management with ministerial accountability to Parliament, especially when the Treasury wants to maintain tight control over public spending. Graham Maister of the Institute of Economic Affairs argues that Next Steps has so far been a cautious advance to a T-junction. From here, one way is the mana-



gerial path, involving more efficiency and adopting best private sector practices. This is favoured by defenders of the traditional civil service unions.

"Government by contract" also implies that some public services would be removed from the political arena, challenging traditional ideas of democratic accountability. The remit of local councils is already being weakened by direct Whitehall links with granted maintained schools. Those in Whitehall who award contracts, whether to schools, hospitals or executive agencies, would have much greater power. If local education authorities are to withdraw, will the Department of Education have to expand to monitor thousands of schools?

The resolution of this largely unappreciated debate depends upon the election. Mr Major is said to favour a radical approach, and he has put Francis Maude and John Redwood, two Thatcherite ministers, in charge of the Citizen's Charter. For all the managerial caution of his style, Mr Major could surprise us all if he wins.



...and moreover

ALAN COREN

I have been to meetings like that. In the days when a mischievous destiny encouraged my corporate ambitions and let me run things with staffs and budgets and group marketing policies and all that stuff. I used often to put on a double-breasted suit and a floral tie and have chauffeured to some chic post-modern atrium where a girl consisting mainly of leg would conduct me to a vault containing a 20 ft table cut from a single slab of serpentine. Around this, the entire creative department of, let us say, Bell, Book & Candle would be waiting, with flip-chart and VCR to lead me through what they were pleased to call their thinking.

So I know how easy it is to get stuck with a really rotty concept. For I have seen many a spatchcock flag run up may a rickety flagpole, and I have watched all present salute them except me, but I have also invariably wound up accepting the agency's campaign for my hapless product because I have persuaded myself that advertising people must know what they are talking about or they wouldn't all have Ferraris, and anyway, I had to get out after a bit, you can take just so much Perrier on an empty stomach.

And all this came back to me yesterday, as I stood staring up at a huge poster of Mr Norman Lamont. Or of part of him, at least: the part unconcealed by the black cowl superimposed on his normally imperceptible features by some spry graphics

brat, who had gone on to inscribe, beside the massive head, in giant capitals: VATMAN. And, do you know my first thought was not of all my crackpot meetings of yesterday, my first thought was that Saatchi & Saatchi were in a different class from all the layabouts with whom I had once been forced to have a relevant truck for this was a really terrific advertisement for the Conservative party, this was a vote-winner, this was a very smart poster indeed.

It was only when my eyes moved to the small print that the years rolled back. Because this was not an advert for the Conservative party at all this was an advert for the Labour party. Or thought it was. It was the Labour party who had sat at the enormous table while some smart alec in a Gucci blouson had said the way we see it is this. VAT is a major issue, okay, but VAT is like, really boring, it has to be personalised, we are talking about hominid here, so we have come up with this terrific hominid, ha-ha what we do is we have the B of Batman, are you with me, and we...

Kinnoch and Hattersley do not look at one another, neither wants to leap in and make a dummy of himself, these advertising people are professionals, they know what they're doing, so Kinnoch and Hattersley just down another bumper of Perrier and the alec drones on, he has research data, he has design roughs, he has a Ferrari, and he is in THE JOKER?

Nor should we ignore the hostage to fortune that lurks in all knocking-copy. Remember Batman's false-faced enemy with the pointy nose and the dersory cackle? So can you guess who'll figure on the Tory posters as soon as Saatchi's realise how much mileage there is in THE JOKER?

Verses versus censorship

SALMAN RUSHDIE will make a Valentine's day gesture of defiance on the third anniversary of the fatwa imposed after the publication of *The Satanic Verses*. He will take part in a global television debate on censorship. Günter Grass and Tom Stoppard are also expected to appear in the hour-long debate, which will be shown live on BBC 2. Meetings are being held at the BBC today with Alan Yentob, the controller, to discuss the format of the programme.

Even as Rushdie speaks from his secret location, similar debates will be taking place around the world. Countries such as Denmark, Ireland, Switzerland and France will be hosting live televised discussions on censorship with leading writers and intellectuals taking part.

In the run-up to the third anniversary of the fatwa, the Worldwide Media Project is coordinating a letter-writing operation to Rushdie via 23 national newspapers. The first appeared in a German newspaper this week. Edward Said, Norman Mailer and Margaret Atwood have committed their support.

A spokeswoman for the Friends of Salman Rushdie, which is coordinating the international effort, says: "It is going to be the biggest co-ordinated effort since the fatwa was imposed."

The Foreign Office, which in November persuaded them to call off the vigil to mark 1,000 days of the fatwa, has asked to be informed of the plans. But Melvyn Bragg, one of Rushdie's friends, says: "We will not be calling this off. We hope this is the event that will make the Foreign Office realise that Rushdie has to be part of the European Union."

Two aliens supposed to have set foot on British soil have been honoured by one of the world's first monuments to a UFO visit. Livingstone Development Corporation has put up a plaque at the spot at Decton Law, West Lothian, where in 1979 a forestry worker claimed he was assaulted by the occupants of a flying saucer. Naturally, there was no proof of the encounter but Arthur C. Clarke immortalised it in his book, *Mysterious World*. An unveiling ceremony will be held in honour of the aliens who appear to have achieved on earth something they may not have in their own galaxy: immortality.

Task for the ladies?

JOHN MAJOR may not have any women in his cabinet, but behind the scenes they are playing a significant role. A woman has been appointed to head a new communications task-force set up this week by Tory central office. "Conservatives in Communications" — a team of 30 key figures from public relations, advertising, radio and television — is to work closely with Shaun Woodward, the party's head of communications.

Woodward has now asked Kathryn Coombs, a director of Dewe Rogerson, to coordinate the body, which will have a vital input into the Tories' election strategy. However, Sir Tim Bell, Mrs Thatcher's favourite ad man, is conspicuously absent.

Coombs will report to Mary Bartholomew, who was seconded to Central Office from Shawcross, Britain's largest PR company, last year. She is now among the closest advisers to Woodward and Chris Patten. Women now outnumber men for the first time in the communications unit, the success of which will make or break the Tory election campaign.



...and moreover

ALAN COREN

Tune in

GAY BYRNE, who almost finished Peter Brooke's political career, has now set his sights on the favourites to succeed Charles Haughey. They are being asked to Bryne's RTE programme *The Late, Late Show* to sing their favourite songs. "Nearly all my guests sing on the show," says Byrne. "It's a tradition." Brooke's rendition of "O my darling Clementine", hours after an IRA bomb killed seven workmen, led to him offering his resignation to the prime minister.

Byrne is confident that the front-runners to succeed Haughey — Albert Reynolds, the former finance minister, Bertie Ahern, his suc-

cessor, and Mary O'Rourke, the health minister — will agree to appear on his Friday show. Reynolds should do best in the singing stakes. Buried in the RTE archive is a 15-year-old film of Reynolds strumming a guitar and singing a song in a packed ballroom to the evident amusement of the dancers. Reynolds might not find it so funny if the film were re-run. But his blushes may be spared: RTE is off the air because of a strike.

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or's mark
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A RUSSIAN HERCULES

Boris Yeltsin is a courageous, principled democrat. He also heads a country engulfed in greater political, economic and social turmoil than it has known for decades. His sagacity and commitment to democracy are now under pressure from an awesome coalition of former communists, bureaucrats, military hardliners and disillusioned nationalists who are blocking many of his radical reforms. So far, he has stood up well to the strain, as decisive in office as he was trenchant in opposition. He has not revealed the rumoured streak of authoritarianism. Nor has he proved the bête, the clown or the dangerous nationalist. He must be judged not in comparison with Mikhail Gorbachev but on his progress so far.

Such a judgment will be easier after his visit to Britain and his appearance today at the United Nations Security Council summit. Mr Yeltsin has little training in international affairs, but has clearly made good use of his advisers. He gave Mr Major a realistic assessment of the troubles besetting Russia and the still inchoate Commonwealth of Independent States. He struck the right note in insisting that Russia is now an ally and partner of the West. He spoke convincingly in his interview with David Dimbleby of the need to "negotiate, negotiate and negotiate" with his opponents at home, and not rely on undemocratic emergency measures.

Mr Yeltsin was, unsurprisingly, less clear on the details of nuclear policy. He should not waste time mastering the arcane technicalities of arms control but agree the broad lines of a foreign policy. Overwhelmingly, he must concentrate on the immense tasks at home. Not until the bold price reforms yield results and plans to give back land and privatise industry are further advanced can he find time for any world role.

The Middle East peace conference should never have been in Moscow last week, a hangover from Mr Gorbachev's attempt to retain credibility as a world statesman. Mr Yeltsin rightly decided it was more important to sort out the argument over the

Black Sea fleet than be seen shaking hands with Egyptians and Israelis. It was courteous to miss a meeting with the Japanese foreign minister. But his inexperienced aides are to blame, not Mr Yeltsin. There will be more such gaffes, and the world must show patience and understanding.

A more serious charge levelled at Mr Yeltsin is that he is impetuous, unable to conceal his emotions or control his tongue. This has several times brought him close to danger. Immediately on taking office he spoke rashly about changing Russia's borders. His speeches denouncing Ukraine's claim to the Black Sea fleet were inflammatory. He rushed through foolish decrees merging the interior ministry with the KGB and proclaiming a state of emergency in the rebellious district of Checheno-Ingushetia. But on each occasion he has moved swiftly to repair the damage. He acknowledged defeat in the Russian parliament on his unpopular decrees and did not try to bypass the democratic process.

Mr Yeltsin has been branded a populist, as though appealing for popular support were politically suspect. In this he was compared unfavourably with the more cerebral but finally unpopular Mr Gorbachev. But his popular support is reflected in a strong mandate at the ballot box. And popularity is essential if Mr Yeltsin is to push through price reform and industrial reorganisation, essential if he is to appeal above the heads of those trying to sabotage reform.

Mr Yeltsin has much in common with former President Reagan. Both men voice the mood and feelings of their countrymen. Neither is an intellectual, yet both have an instinctive grasp of politics. Like President Reagan, Mr Yeltsin is trying to restore morale and change attitudes in a country mired in pessimism and self-doubt. The world cannot expect a smooth performance. Here is the free-ranging "broad spirit" of traditional Russia. But Mr Yeltsin represents, in hazardous solitude, the best hope for his country's democratic recovery. He deserves Western support to the full.

LATE BUT UNLAMENTED

"I will believe Charles Haughey is dead when I see him buried at midnight with a stake driven through his heart, and even then I will carry a clove of garlic in my pocket for good luck." So intoned the distinguished Irish columnist Conor Cruise O'Brien in *The Times*. Yesterday the Taoiseach and Fianna Fail leader publicly pronounced his own burial at the cross-roads. Ireland will be the winner if the anachronistic political culture he represented is interred alongside him.

How did he survive so long? Cian O'Riordan dug deep in Irish politics, particularly in Fianna Fail. The pundits were kept guessing until the last possible moment. Despite earlier promises to quit, Mr Haughey's cronies had made the tantalising observation: "A man often goes to bed with one idea and wakes up with another." His cabinet colleagues hoped Mr Haughey would make a pragmatic if not dignified exit. The polls suggested the public were heartily sick of him. Would his party colleagues overthrow Mr Haughey at the behest of turncoats like the Progressive Democrats, Fianna Fail's partners in government? They did, but only as a last resort.

Mr Haughey's ability to pull a "stroke" or outmanoeuvre his enemies was widely admired. Whatever mischief Mr Haughey appeared to get up to, at least half the adult Irish population could be guaranteed to forgive him in the voting booth.

Nothing better illustrated Mr Haughey's instinctive feel for populist politics than his behaviour at the EC summit in Dublin in 1990 during the World Cup. The Taoiseach abandoned a formal press conference to watch a penalty shoot-out involving the Irish team. As soon as the Irish scored their winning goal Mr Haughey raced for the television cameras to dance a victory jig.

Given a choice between a long moral lecture from well-meaning Garret Fitzgerald, friend to genteel social democrats

world over, and a roguish appeal from Mr Haughey, the Irish chose the man with a twinkle in his eye. That many British journalists and Conservative politicians, notwithstanding his Republican credentials, also came under his spell should have alerted his compatriots' suspicions. Mr Haughey disastrously reinforced foreign misgivings about the Irish.

Charles Haughey represented a brand of old Irish politics dating from the days of independence. But the civil war must now be laid to rest. In the words of Yeats the Irish have laboured too long under "MacDonagh's bony thumb". Nor could he escape his own past. Forced out of office after the IRA gun-running scandal, acquitted in court but nevertheless disgraced, his career was one long fightback against the odds.

After a brief interregnum under Mr Fitzgerald, Mr Haughey's second victory in March 1982 laid the foundations of his eventual ruin. Financial scandals abounded and a murderer was arrested in the home of his attorney general, Patrick Connolly. As Haughey's paranoia grew, loyalty oaths were wrung from cabinet colleagues and unsympathetic Dublin journalists had their telephones tapped by the justice minister, Sean Doherty. Lies and deceipts from that period will haunt him ever since.

A younger, uncorrupted generation of Dail politicians, exemplified by the new president Mary Robinson, have grown to political maturity since the Troubles. As dreams of Irish unity turned into nightmares in the North a cooler-headed appraisal of the Unionist position and the Catholic status of the Republic was bound to follow. With the social problems bred by 20 per cent unemployment, high emigration and a narrow economic base, Mr Haughey's fall is a mercy. As unkind critics used to say about the Irish economy, his leavetaking is catastrophic but not serious.

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Given a choice between a long moral lecture from well-meaning Garret Fitzgerald, friend to genteel social democrats

THE SLOUGH OF DESPOND

Everyone suffers from the glooms. Some are brought on by external events, divorce, perhaps, or bereavement. Others come from nowhere and vanish unpredictably. At any one time, roughly three million Britons are "depressed". Many, according to a survey published yesterday, are embarrassed to admit it, and most are unaware of how easily it can be treated.

Anti-depressant drugs are not addictive, have no serious side-effects and lift the spirits of 70 per cent of those taking them. Doctors launching yesterday's campaign to increase public awareness of depression see no reason why some sufferers should not take them continuously. The analogy, they say, is with insulin for diabetes: depression is often due to chemical imbalances in the brain and chemical treatments are the obvious cure. Why then, does the idea of GPs routinely prescribing anti-depressants seem questionable?

The British propensity to pill-popping stems partly from a traditional view that those depressed should simply "pull their socks up" or "snap out of it". Depression seems indulgent, an extravagance that only the lazy or selfish can afford, an affliction of those with too much time on their hands. Other cultures are more sympathetic. Americans attach little stigma to depression; interminable television programmes explore it and an industry of psychoanalysis and therapy has evolved in response.

The British suspicion runs deeper. Anti-depressants seem too like soma, a happiness drug that by its nature is artificial. Some depressions may be simply chemical, but others have a psychological root. Drugs treat

the symptoms, but not the cause. If all they do is alter the patient's mood chemically, in what way are they different from a bottle of Scotch or a syringe of heroin — except in that they are prescribed on the NHS? If all those who suffered depression were to resort to drugs, would the world be a better place?

The sum of human happiness would undoubtedly increase. But, pace John Stuart Mill, the answer does not end there. The psychiatrist Anthony Storr believes there is a correlation between depression and great achievement. Winston Churchill, whose "black dog" of depression haunted him all his life, is a famous example. Goethe, Schopenhauer, Luther and Tolstoy suffered recurrent bouts of gloom too.

Dr Storr believes that the illness acts as a spur: to avoid melancholy the sufferer will "deny himself rest or relaxation, and accomplish more than most men are capable of, just because he cannot afford to stop." If Churchill had been prescribed anti-depressants, he would have been a happier man. But he might never have discovered writing or painting, both pursuits that he used to stave off despondency. More important to Britain, he might not have inspired the nation with the courage needed when defeat seemed imminent.

Clearly medical advance enables the relief of even more suffering and should not be impeded for that. If chemically induced depression can be cured, and if resistance must be overcome, so it should. But unhappiness remains a component part of human experience. The holy grail of eternal bliss is better sought than found.

Japanese murderer

From Mrs I. J. Miller

Sir, I found your report of the "Cannibal with a taste for tea and whisky" (January 25) completely abhorrent. The eating habits of a sadly insane Japanese have no place on the front page of your newspaper and should not be used to raise a cheap laugh.

Yours faithfully,
JOANNA MILLER,
St Michael's Lodge,
192 Devonport Road,
Stoke, Plymouth, Devon.

January 25.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

The charter, the customer and the civil service

From Mrs D. P. Drake

Sir, Because of delays and cancellation of trains at our local station yesterday, my husband arrived at the Hospital for Sick Children, where he is a consultant, 40 minutes late for work.

Should the patients who had to wait to see him complain to the hospital administrator, British Rail, or the prime minister?

Yours faithfully,
LINDA DRAKE,
14 College Gardens,
Dulwich, SE21.

January 28.

From the General Secretary of the Institution of Professionals, Managers and Specialists

Sir, Your leading article, "Uncivil servants" (January 28), contained contradictory images of public-sector employees as both demoralised workers delivering poor public services and workers "tucked into a job for life", arrogantly ignoring the public. These only underline the contradiction which bedevils the government's citizen's charter.

Both the charter and your leader seek to transfer responsibility for poor-quality public services down to the level of the individual worker. Contrary to the article's assertion, the argument that the charter can only be effective when public-sector workers fear the sack consists of all stick and no carrot; it alludes to a level of job security which simply no longer exists.

Such an argument also ignores the reality that no worker — in the public or the private sector — has any meaningful influence on raising service quality. This requires investment, training, adequate communication and information systems, etc. For example, will employees of the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency face an increased risk of the sack because the extra investment required to improve their telephone enquiry system has been refused? Will DVLA's charter targets reflect this?

Francis Maude, the Treasury minister in charge of the charter, is right to recognise that civil servants "want to give good service" and "don't need to be bullied or hounded" into giving it, and it is an offence to the continuing dedication of demoralised public-sector workers to suggest otherwise. It is a pity, however, that the government does not recognise the public-sector ethos which in itself motivates civil servants.

Yours faithfully,
BILL SKRIT,
General Secretary,
Institution of Professionals,
Managers and Specialists,
75-79 York Road, SE1.

January 28.

From Mrs A. J. B. Sargent

Sir, Your leading article refers to civil service performance and the hope that "performance-related pay" might do the trick. This, I am sorry to

Sunday trading

From the Chief Executive of the Co-operative Wholesale Society Ltd.

Sir, It is most surprising that there was so little media comment following the House of Commons vote (report, early editions, January 23) in favour of Mr Ray Powell's Shop (Amendment) Bill. A vote of 224 MPs in favour and four against surely demands both attention from the press and action from the government.

Mr Powell's Bill is based on the Keep Sunday Special Campaign's proposals which, whilst designed to preserve the essential character of the British Sunday, would allow types of premises to open, for example small shops, garden centres and restaurants.

This would remove most of the ambiguities and anomalies from the present law without destroying the safeguards that help make and keep Sunday different.

The question of Sunday trading should be determined by the House of Commons and not in the boardrooms of public limited companies, where decisions are based solely on commercial criteria. That would change the whole fabric of Sunday life, and I have no doubt that this would be a matter of great regret to the vast majority of people.

As it is now clear that MPs have the will to act, the government should respond and introduce legislation forthwith.

Yours faithfully,
DENNIS LANDAU,
Chief Executive,
Co-operative Wholesale Society Ltd.,
PO Box 53,
New Century House,
Manchester 60.

January 28.

Failure of Trident

From the Minister of State for the Armed Forces

Sir, Lord Kennet (letter, January 28) questions the independence of our Trident deterrent on four counts. He is wrong on all four.

1. Trident missiles will be available to the UK. The Polaris sales agreement, as amended for Trident, has the status of an international treaty and is lodged with the UN.

2. The missiles are not beyond our control. Once Trident has fully entered service the majority of our missiles will be aboard our submarines: they require processing only once every seven or eight years.

3. While we have undertaken that the British Trident fleet will be operated in defence of the Western Alliance (as with Polaris) we have reserved the right to use it independently of that role if supreme national interests so require.

4. We have our own national targeting capability.

In short, the British minimum deterrent is, and will remain, operationally independent and under the absolute control of Her Majesty's government. It is a system which enjoys the wholehearted support of my party but not, I believe, that of Lord Kennet.

Yours faithfully,
ARCHIE HAMILTON,
House of Commons.

January 29.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

January 30.

Failure of Trident

From Mrs Janet Bloomfield

Sir, Your editorial, "Whither Trident" (January 30), clearly sets out the case for a fundamental rethink.

There is no doubt that nuclear proliferation threatens world security. By the end of the century we could be faced with over 20 destabilised regional conflicts that have the potential for becoming wars.

Arms control and diplomacy backed by strong and well-funded international agencies should be the basis for controlling proliferation, not clinging to "deterrence" and hoping for the best. The signing of a comprehensive test ban treaty which would severely hinder the design and development of new weapons and the strengthening and improvement of the Non-Proliferation Treaty are vital steps that could and should be pursued with the utmost vigour by those assembling for the UN Security Council summit meeting.

The sad state of British party political debate about the opportunities offered by the end of the nuclear stand-off of the Cold War cannot continue. The vision of the possibility of a "post-nuclear" world should be firmly on the political agenda.

In 1995 the NPT comes up for renewal. The treaty should be renewed, strengthened and fully implemented. Trident contributes nothing to our future security — it needs to be cancelled now.

Yours sincerely,
JANET BLOOMFIELD

(Vice-Chairman,
Campaign for Nuclear

Disarmament,

162 Holloway Road, N7.

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COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
January 30: The Duchess of York this morning visited the Westminster Children's Hospital School, Vincent Square, London SW1.

Captain Alexander Baillie-Hamilton was in attendance.

The Prince Edward, Patron, this morning participated in the judging of the Ocean Youth Club's new logo competition at McCann-Erickson House, 36 Howland Street, London W1.

Lieutenant Colonel Sean O'Dwyer was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
January 30: The Prince of Wales this morning visited HMS Norfolk (Captain John Lippett, RN).

Lieutenant Commander Robert Fraser, RN, was in attendance.

His Royal Highness, Colonel-in-Chief of the 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment, received Lieutenant Colonel James McSheehy on relinquishing command of the 2nd Battalion, and Lieutenant Colonel Adrian Freer on assuming the appointment, at St James's Palace.

The Prince of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief, The Parachute Regiment, received Lieutenant Colonel Clint Hicks on relinquishing command of the 2nd Battalion, and Lieutenant Colonel Adrian Freer on assuming the appointment, at St James's Palace.

His Royal Highness held a reception this evening for The Prince of Wales' Institute of Architecture at St James's Palace.

The Princess of Wales, Patron, Royal Anthropological Institute, this morning received Dr Marcus Banks and Dr Brian Dunnage at Kensington Palace.

KENSINGTON PALACE
January 30: Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, Colonel-in-Chief, The King's Own Scottish Borderers, today received Brigadier Colin Mamingsley, Colonel of the Regiment.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE

January 30: The Duke of Kent, Patron of The London Philharmonic Orchestra, this evening attended a concert at the Royal Festival Hall, London SE1.

Captain the Hon Tom Coke was in attendance.

The Duchess of Kent, Patron, today visited Helen House Hospice, Leopold Street, Oxford.

Mr Peter Troughton was in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
January 30: Princess Alexandra, Patron, this morning visited the Florence Nightingale Museum, Cassiobury House, 2 Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1.

Mr Peter Afia was in attendance.

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The Countess of Limerick, Chairman of the British Red Cross, presenting Mr Marmaduke Hussey, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the BBC, with Red Cross papers relating to his wounding and capture during the Battle of Anzio in 1944, at a fund-raising luncheon at the Caledonian Club, London

Luncheons

Prime Minister
The Queen of The Netherlands celebrates her birthday today.

Professor Sir Eric Ash, rector, Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, 64; Lieutenant Commander Sir Richard Buckley, former royal navy, 66; Professor Violet Cane, statistician, 76; Mr Christopher Chawner, chairman, Civil Aviation Authority, former MP and athletics, 61; Mr Robert Clowdrey, sculptor, 64; Lord Nicholas Gordon Lennox, 61; Mr Mervin Grindell, editor, ADAM International Review, 83; Air Marshal Sir Christopher Hartley, 79; Air Commodore Lord Harvey of Prestbury, 86; Professor Brenda Hogan, 92; Air Marshal Sir John Kemball, 53; Mr Norman Mailer, author, 69; Miss Rosanne Musgrave, headmistress, Blackheath High School, 40; Miss Jean Simmons, actress, 63; The Rev Lord Soper, 99; Brigadier Sir Alexander Stanier, 93; Dame Freya Stark, traveller and writer, 99; Sir Michael Wilford, diplomat, 70.

Birthdays today

Mr Peter Afia, Master of the Household

The Queen has appointed Major General Sir Simon Cooper, formerly General Officer Commanding London District and Major General Commanding Household Division, as Master of the Household in succession to Rear-Admiral Sir Paul Greening, who retires in August.

Appointments

Mr John Hale, Master of the Armouries and Brasiers Company, to be a member of the board of trustees of the Royal Armouries at the Tower of London.

Mrs Ann Varley-Tysoe, deputy head of St Helen's School, Northwood, to be Headmistress of Edgbaston Church of England College for Girls, Birmingham, from April.

Scientific Instrument Makers' Company

Professor Carl den Brinker, Master of the Scientific Instrument

Fruiteters' Company
The Lord Mayor, accompanied by the Sheriffs, was a speaker at the annual lively dinner of the Fruiteters' Company held last night at Plaisterers' Hall. Mr Alan F. Todd, Master, Mr D.G. Hope-Mason and the South African Ambassador also spoke. The Master also presented the company's Lewis award for distinguished services for the marketing of fresh fruit to Mr P.D.S. Briggs. Among the other guests were:

The High Commissioners for Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the Bishop of Truro, Lord Marks of Castle Morris, Lord Harber, Judge Richard Lowry, QC, Master of the Royal Court, Town Clerk of the Corporation of London and the Chamberlain of the Merchant Taylors' Show.

Dr Faruq Abdellah and Professor Ludwig Finkelsztajn accepted the 1991 Scientific Instrument Makers' Achievement Award on behalf of the Measurement and Instrumentation Centre of City University from Mr John Herro, Deputy Master. Among the other guests were:

Mr Jeremy Hanley, MP, was the guest of honour at a dinner at the 1992 Club held last night at the House of Commons, at the invitation of Mr Roger E. Sims, MP, chairman of the club. Mr Tom J. Atwood also spoke.

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£175,000 ransom paid for woman

Continued from page 1
kidnapper gave his final instructions. Miss Slater, a negotiator, was abducted a week ago on Wednesday when she went to meet a middle-aged man calling himself Bob Southwall, who made arrangements that began two weeks earlier to view a unoccupied house for sale in the area, only a short distance from the M6.

In his final instructions on Wednesday, the abductor ordered Kevin Watts, the manager of the estate agents, who agreed to act as courier, to drive north with the money.

The West Midlands police operation was led by Philip Thomas, an assistant chief constable. Yesterday he defended the decision to put Miss Slater's safety before the effort to catch her abductor and said that he was elated she had been freed unharmed.

He said: "We could have secured the arrest of this man by taking risks that, in my view, were unacceptable when balanced against Stephen's safe return." He accepted it was rare for a kidnapper to escape with a ransom, but said it had been decided to take a calculated risk over the loss of the money rather than jeopardise her life.

Police did not disclose how close they got to catching the abductor before he removed the money or when it was taken. No information was given yesterday to indicate where Miss Slater had been held captive, but she said she spent most of the time alone in a room.

The kidnapper had warned the company that she would be killed if the police were informed of the abduction. West Midlands police were told of the kidnapping and Operation Kaftan was launched.

The news embargo was lifted yesterday morning after Miss Slater walked up to the front door of her parent's house at Newton Gardens, Great Barr, to be greeted by her overjoyed mother and father. At a press conference later she spoke of the "sheer terror" of the kidnapping and her joy at being free.

Her kidnapper is described as 5ft 7in tall, aged between 40 and 45, of medium build, wearing thick-rimmed glasses and speaking with a soft Yorkshire or Lancastrian accent.

Michael Abrahams, the



Shipshape: Sculptor Ian Brennan, left, watched by Ron Taylor, finishing the starboard side entry port of Nelson's flagship HMS Victory during restoration work at Portsmouth dockyard which started 70 years ago. Mr Taylor will paint the finished pieces

Prince's plea for human architecture

Continued from page 1
thrown out of the window to be replaced by an egocentric world view which denies that all-encompassing sense of the sacred, and stresses the purely rational," he said.

The school, which will have up to 100 places for students from throughout the world, is about a mile from the headquarters of the Royal Institute of British Architects, which many feel it is intended to rival in the debate on architecture. The school is a product of the prince's successful summer schools in Oxford and Rome in the past two years. It will open in October.

Brian Hanson, the prince's architecture secretary, who will be director of studies, said: "We want to teach architects the three Rs: to be Rooted in the best traditions of buildings; to be Ready to listen to other professionals and to the people they build for; and to be Radical in seeking solutions to the present problems of the building industry."

Michael Abrahams, the

deputy chairman of the trustees, said: "Sufficient funding has been raised for the first six years, during which a full endowment will be sought."

A further 50 places will be available to students seeking work experience in architectural offices and on building sites, including Duchy of Cornwall projects.

Leon Krier, who will teach at the school, said: "Students will not get the brainwashing they receive in other architectural schools. The idea is to show there is not just one way of building. They can learn traditional design and building techniques without having a bad conscience about it."

By raising funds for the school, the prince has overtaken several plans for architecture centres. The Riba has been proposing one for its headquarters at Portland Place, but costs have risen to £20 million, and the project looks unlikely to proceed.

Prince's speech and
Diary, page 14

French resent VIP hospital care for guerrilla chief

Continued from page 1
rescue operation. Mitterrand also indicated yesterday that a French judge, who specialises in terrorism investigations, had established "a relationship" between Mr Habash and some such terrorist operations.

"If justice requires that Habash is questioned, the process must go ahead," Mitterrand said. Observers in Paris were quick to point out that the judge in question is handling investigations into a French DC10 aircraft, which was destroyed with the loss of 171 lives by a bomb while flying over West Africa in September 1990.

At the Quai d'Orsay, where questions about the arrival of Mr Habash in Paris on Wednesday night were first met with a statement that this was "an entirely medical affair", officials insisted yesterday that no foreign country had yet registered any objections. Daniel Bernard, the official spokesman, said the Red Cross had agreed to fly Mr Habash in for emergency

treatment at Henry-Dunant hospital in the smart 16th arrondissement "because there was no tradition of refusal" in such matters.

In a terse communiqué issued after the political row began, the French Red Cross, headed by a former minister in the Socialist government, Georges Dufoix, said that it had agreed to Mr Habash's admission in accordance with "its tradition of neutrality".

Within hours of the arrival of Mr Habash, a lean, grey-haired man in his mid-sixties who has at least suffered previous cerebral seizures, outraged protests came from Mitterrand's political opponents. The Gaullist RPR party described Mr Habash as "the organiser of the major terrorist operations in Western Europe for the past fifteen years".

The centrist Republican party assailed the decision to allow him to enter the country for treatment as "an insult to the victims of international terrorism and their blood that has been spilled".

Political sketch

Ganging up to save the elephant

Do elephants still do tricks with buns? Childhood memories were stirred yesterday, at PM's questions.

The PM was away, with Boris Yeltsin. In his place stood nice Mr MacGregor, House leader. All around him on the government side was a throng of friendly spectators: the Tory MPs.

Deployed (for Labour) against this deputy was Neil Kinnock's own deputy, Mr Hattersley. Around Uncle Roy were his own pals. Labour MPs who had come to help bait Mr MacGregor. MacGregor was the show. The spectacle is reminiscent of a school outing to see the Elephant at the zoo. The beast is brought out and humbers around the ring. The friendly children (Tories) throw buns with which it is expected to perform tricks for their amusement. Naughty children (Labour) try to flick pellets at the Elephant or poke it with sticks.

The PM made the position absolutely clear on Tuesdays.

The bun thudded harmlessly onto the mud. The Tory children looked puzzled. This was rather lame. They wanted their Elephant to have fun with this bun, balance it on its head, play around with it, stow it off if a hit it was a rule bun.

On no it wasn't Uncle Roy. Kicked the fence angrily, raised his bun back through the wire, and opened it up. "On April 6," he snapped, Mr Major had said he "could not give categorical assurance" about VAT. He quoted the PM: "No government ever has and no government ever will."

Phew! There had been a razor-blade in the bun. If MacElephant had taken it and replied "yes the assurance was categorical" he would have sliced his trunk. Faded Uncle Roy threw the biter-bun peninsula back at the Elephant, but of course even the Tory children could see why their Elephant wasn't touching it.

"As we know, the Prime Elephant was conning with a bear from the Moscow state circus. So the House leader, an understudy elephant and rather a small one, was there to perform his best tricks, balance buns and dodge sticks. From Labour's Martyn Jones (Croyd SW) came a nasty poke in the rump; had the Tories renege on their promise to balance the books?

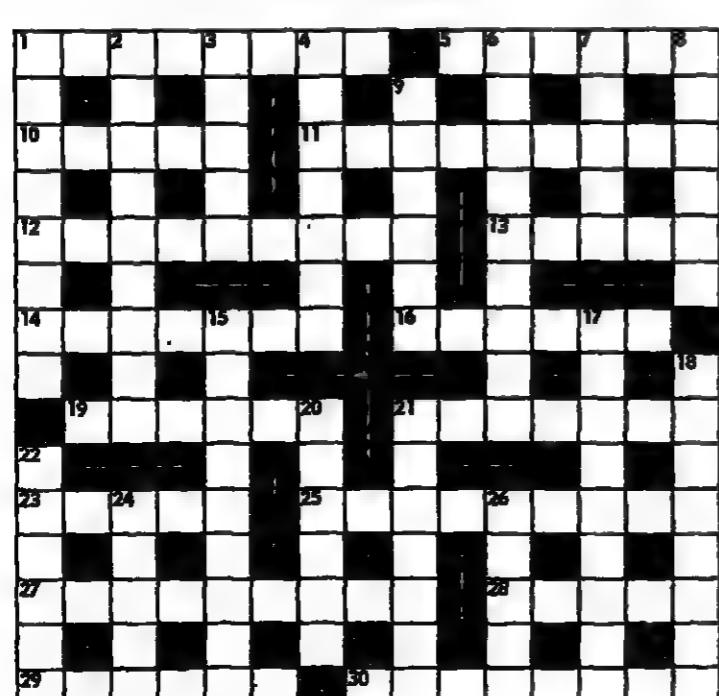
Mr MacElephant has a thick hide. Flapping his ears and making a little run at Mr Jones, he lumbered away for a while about Labour's profligacy. Jones would have to wait for the Budget, he said, lumbering back towards the friendly children.

One of them had a special bun. Charles Goodson-Wickes (Wimbledon) is a very proper boy, hair plastered and parted with precision. His bun, about whether the "founders of the NHS" would be "honored" at Labour's policies, was tossed in gentle underarm action, inviting a dolly catch by even a novice elephant. This, MacGregor accomplished: "My hon friend is right then, balancing bun on head, tried a trick (Neville Brown's nephew, he said) a constituent, considered the NHS 'not safe in Labour's hands'."

Child's play. But now came something odd. Uncle Roy — surely supposed to be with the naughty kids? — threw what looked like a bun. Last Tuesday, he said amiably, the PM said he would not increase VAT. Squeech.

MATTHEW PARRIS

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,829



WORDWATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which definitions are correct?

By Philip Howard

ERIKING
a. According to be ill
b. A Tolkein creature
c. A misopistic spirit

PIGHITTLE
a. A small field
b. A whale's penis
c. A half-pint mug

PIDAN
a. An Anglo-Indian paradise ground
b. Very bad duck eggs
c. A place of Israel

DILANIATE
a. Having whitened toes
b. To tear in strecths
c. A word with two distinct derivations

Answers in *Life & Times*, 11

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M25 London Orbital only 736

London

National motorways 737

West Country 738

Wales 739

Midlands 740

East Anglia 741

North-west England 742

North-east England 743

Scotland 744

Northern Ireland 745

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* denotes figures are latest available

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21 Same? It's different for an artist (7)

23 Falling in race (or parts of one), we hear (5)

25 Direct result of initial deal (5-4)

27 Novelist, poet, playwright — or economist (9)

Solution to Puzzle No 18,828

DEADLOCK PERSON
E I H I U X
G O R N F L A K E S F I F E
I V E S T F E
D E F E N E S T R A T I O N
E A C I O A C
R A I D E R S C H A N C E R
A A I
D R Y D O C K C O U R S E S
A R E L N A A
K N I G H T B A C H E L O R
E E O F O P G
G O O D H E A P P R A I S E
F L E S S E N
E S P E C I E R A C H E R E N T

The concise crossword is on *Life & Times*, 11

WPA

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WEATHER

In central and eastern parts with temperatures near freezing. The fog will reform in places during the evening. Some sun over Wales and western England. Over southern and eastern Scotland overnight fog should clear. Northern Ireland and western Scotland will be mostly cloudy with patchy drizzle. Outlook: Rain spreading southeast over Scotland and Northern Ireland. Fog over England and Wales lingering all day in places.

Fog will clear slowly over England and Wales but may linger

in central and eastern parts with temperatures near freezing.

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Over southern and eastern Scotland overnight fog should clear.

Northern Ireland and western Scotland will be mostly cloudy with patchy drizzle.

Outlook: Rain spreading southeast over Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Fog over England and Wales lingering all day in places.

London 4.47 pm to 7.40 am

Bristol 4.42 pm to 8.05 am

Edinburgh 4.42 pm to 7.55 am

Manchester 4.42 pm to 7.55 am

Sun rises 7.42 am **Sun sets** 4.47 pm

Moon rises 5.50 am **Moon sets** 1.38 pm

New moon February 3

Temperature at midday yesterday: p. cloudy, 10°C; rain, 9°C; sun, 10°C

Belfast 4.41°C **Greenwich** 4.48°C

Birmingham 4.37°C **London** 4.34°C

Bristol 4.34°C **Cardiff** 4.34°C **Edinburgh** 4.34°C

Glasgow 4.34°C **Sheffield** 4.34°C **Sheffield** 4.34°C

Wales 4.34°C **Wales** 4.34°C

Scotland 4.34°C **Scotland** 4.34°C

Temperature at midday yesterday: p. cloudy, 4°C; rain, 3°C; sun, 4°C

Belfast 3.9°C **Greenwich** 3.9°C

Birmingham 3.8°C **London** 3.8°C

Bristol 3.8°C **Cardiff** 3.8°C **Edinburgh** 3.8°C

Glasgow 3.8°C **Sheffield** 3.8°C **Sheffield** 3.8°C

Wales 3.8°C **Wales** 3.8°C

Scotland 3.8°C **Scotland** 3.8°C

Temperature at midday yesterday: p. cloudy, 3°C; rain, 2°C; sun, 3°C

Belfast 3.0°C **Greenwich** 3.0°C

Birmingham 2.9°C **London** 2.9°C

Jail is life

● BUSINESS NEWS 19-26
● SPORT 29-32

THE TIMES BUSINESS

FRIDAY JANUARY 31 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

Oftel says control is still needed over company's ability to put up prices

JOHN MANNING

BT profits fall to £759m in third quarter

BY MARTIN WALLER

BT HAS announced a fall in quarterly profits for only the second time since the 1984 privatisation, ahead of a wide-ranging review by the industry regulator of the company's prices.

Pre-tax profits in the three months to December, the third quarter of the financial year, fell 3.6 per cent from £787 million to £759 million, but in the first nine months they remained on an upward path, showing a gain of £50 million, or 2.2 per cent, to £2.37 billion.

Sir Bryan Carsberg, director general of telecommunications, yesterday launched the latest of a series of reviews, aimed at ensuring the customer is protected from BT's relative monopoly in the telephone market, with the publication of two consultative documents.

The current arrangements, which effectively require annual price cuts, expire in July next year, and Sir Bryan is requesting the opinions of interested parties before he and BT negotiate over the regime to be imposed thereafter.

Sir Bryan stressed that "for the time being", firm controls on the company's ability to raise its prices would still be necessary. He favoured the existing formula, which is expressed as the ability to raise prices by the rate of inflation minus a given figure.

In so doing, Sir Bryan has set his face against direct controls on profits or any restriction on the return on capital employed that BT is allowed to earn. He said the latter course would act as a disincentive for BT to im-

prove its quality of service. He also decided against a mandatory, immediate one-off price cuts. These, he said, would only distort the telecommunications industry by tempting BT to delay efficiencies and consequent cost savings until the latest pricing regime is in place.

There was relief in the City that Sir Bryan had rejected such a draconian approach and a feeling that the terms of the consultative documents were more favourable to BT than had been feared. BT's share price performed strongly in a weak market, the fully paid shares ending up ahead at 329p. The part-paid, sold by the government in a highly publicised issue last month, added 2p to 119p.

Sir Bryan said he would hear the arguments put forward as a result of the consultative papers before deciding if the next price regime would be tougher than the current one. He added: "I do intend to come up with a number which gives BT a tough challenge over the next few years in providing a better service to its customers."

It leaves Oftel to become director general of fair trading on June 1. Both he and BT were convinced the price review could be completed by then.

The latest quarterly figures from BT were immediately attacked by Labour's Doug Henderson, the shadow telecommunications spokesman, said profit levels were still excessive and the operating return nearly double that of any other telephone operator in the world. "There is scope for price reductions," he said.

Comment, page 23



Tough regime: Iain Vallance, announcing BT's drop in third-quarter profits to £759 million, yesterday

Firms are cleared over Blue Arrow

Maxwell to petition Lords

BY NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

KEVIN Maxwell is planning to petition the House of Lords in order to avoid answering investigators' questions about the whereabouts of the Maxwell companies' missing pension funds.

Keith Oliver, a solicitor from Peters & Peters, the firm that is acting for Mr Maxwell, confirmed that the firm is preparing a petition to the House of Lords.

The petition will ask for permission to appeal against Wednesday's decision in the Court of Appeal that he had

to provide information to Robson Rhodes, the provisional liquidator of Bishopsgate Investment Management, the company that managed the funds.

If the Law Lords grant the application for an appeal they may also suspend the court order for Mr Maxwell to submit the affidavit and be questioned by the liquidators.

Mr Maxwell's advisers are thought to be rushing to complete the petition, so they can submit it before next Wednesday. That is the deadline for Mr Maxwell to hand over affidavits about a series of

transactions at BIM, where he was a director. Rhodes believes the information may help it to trace missing funds of up to £400 million.

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Pan Am files \$2.5bn suit against Delta

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

PAN AM World Airways, the collapsed American airline, yesterday launched a \$2.5 billion legal fight against Delta Airlines, which it claims

decision was not to continue to put more money into a losing proposition.

Delta withdrew its support

for Pan Am just days before it was due to emerge from a period under the protection of the bankruptcy court.

Big mea, little losers
L&T section, page 4

Government to lift ban on foreign gas imports

BY ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE government is to lift its ban on gas imports and promote a feasibility study by six gas companies into the construction of a cross-Channel pipeline connecting Britain with the continental gas grid, Colin Moynihan, the junior energy minister, told parliament.

The up-side should provide British companies and households with access to cheap Russian gas later in the decade and help to arrest the rise in industrial gas prices that was triggered by increased use of gas for power generation.

The announcement was welcomed by British Gas, which has long argued that increased imports were necessary to provide flexibility and diversity of supplies.

The threat that Britain might be denied the benefits to other European countries from cheap Russian gas, and

government determination to increase competition in gas supply, seem to have contributed to the policy reversal.

Speaking in response to an emergency question from Frank Dobson, the shadow energy spokesman, Mr Moynihan said competition in gas supply would "benefit considerably" from free trade.

Geoffrey Chipperfield, a former permanent secretary at the Department of Energy, will head the feasibility study into the cross-Channel pipeline. The work will be carried out by a consortium including British Gas, BP, Statoil and Norsk Hydro of Norway, Conoco and Elf, the French state oil company.

It is understood that the government hopes other companies, including Gaz de France, will eventually participate in the project. It is estimated that a pipeline capable of supplying gas in either

direction across the channel would cost £200 million to £300 million.

Without it, Britain would be unable to participate in the pan-European energy market to which the European Commission is committed.

Although continental gas prices are at present similar to those in Britain, German utilities have contracted to obtain cheap supplies from countries in the Commonwealth of Independent States which control 40 per cent of known world reserves.

Mr Moynihan yesterday approved imports by BP, Statoil and Norsk Hydro, which plan a joint venture to market gas in Britain and Europe and approved the purchase by National Power of sufficient gas to fuel a 1,300 megawatt station from Statoil's Norwegian reserves.

Comment, page 23

Major offers Russia a helping hand again

BY COLIN NARBROUGH

AT FIRST glance, it might have appeared as if the government's left hand did not know what the right was doing. Just as John Willott, newly-appointed chief executive of the Export Credits Guarantee Department, was laying the blame for heavy provisions on the former Soviet Union, the prime minister disclosed that Britain is again to offer credit cover for the Russia and other ex-Soviet republics.

The ECGD suspended cover to the then Soviet Union in August 1990, when perestroika was not having the desired effect on the economy. The ECGD has reported new provisions against bad debt of £496 million for 1990-1, the year in which it still operated a short-term export guarantee.

Mr Willott attributed the bulk of last year's need for new provisions to disintegrating

made in 1989-90, but those figures largely represented a one-off switch to stringent Bank of England provisioning rules. Total provisions stand at £7.6 billion. Business insured increased in 1990-1 from £15.7 billion to £16.8 billion.

Mr Willott would not say where cover could be resumed for Russia. John Major announced that after a Downing Street party with Boris Yeltsin, the Russian president £280 million of

medium-term export credit and investment insurance would be made available.

After a meeting at the Treasury with Norman Lamont, Yegor Gaidar, President Yeltsin's reformist finance minister, was bursting with gratitude over Britain's efforts to help Russia. Mr Major, if re-elected, is pledged to making enhanced trade and co-operation

with the former Soviet Union a key issue during the British presidency of the European Community in the second half of this year.

The question raised, however, was whether the government is prepared to reverse its policy of reducing the cost of ECGD cover to the taxpayer in pursuit of a foreign policy goal.

The fine print shows that not to be the case yet. What Mr Major has promised will only be available to British exporters in the context of an International Monetary Fund accord. Russia is pressing for early membership and a robust stabilisation fund. This will all take time and British exporters should not be discouraged. Applications for credit insurance take time to process.

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A matter of credit: Norman Lamont (left), Yegor Gaidar and John Willott



A matter of credit: Norman Lamont (left), Yegor Gaidar and John Willott

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Threat to investors' safety net

By SARA MCCONNELL

PAYOUTS to investors who lose money through firms declared in default could be at risk from March if members of regulatory organisations cannot afford to fund the Investors' Compensation Scheme (ICS) in full next year.

The Securities and Investments Board (SIB) and the ICS said on Wednesday that they could not afford to renew insurance of compensation liabilities between £25 million and £100 million. The insurance would cover any shortfall if claims exceeded the amount raised through a levy on members of regulatory bodies.

Cover will last until March, the end of ICS's financial year. Investors of firms already declared in default will receive payouts if they are eligible. The cost of insurance last year was £450,000. ICS said that was no longer acceptable.

So far this year, the scheme has paid out £9.3 million to investors to firms through 20 companies.

BMW sales increase to DM29.8bn

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU

BMW, the German carmaker, last year shrugged off the recession in some of its export markets — including Britain and America — to increase its sales by 9.6 per cent to DM29.8 billion.

In an interim report, BMW said that net profits had also risen from the DM169.9 million achieved in 1990 but gave no details. However, profits are thought to have risen in line with sales.

The strong rise in sales came mainly through the introduction of the new 3-series model and strong domestic demand. In Germany, car sales rose by 21 per cent to 233,000 units, while on average they were static throughout the rest of Europe.

In Britain, however, they were down 10 per cent to 33,700.

Healthier prospects for Rank put profit gloom in the shade

SIR Patrick Meaney, chairman of Rank Organisation, described the group's annual results as "disappointing" yesterday, but the 47p jump in the share price to 642p showed that the City did not agree.

Institutional shareholders were relieved that the group had survived a difficult year without the much-rumoured rights issue or a dividend cut. Indeed, stripping out the interest charge, which increased from £16.2 million to £93 million, the figures looked remarkably healthy.

Trading profits in the year to October 31 rose from £45.1 million to £187 million on sales of £2.11 billion, up from £1.33 billion. Pre-tax profits fell from £132 million to £250 million because of the increased interest charge, a drop in the contribution from Rank Xerox and an exceptional charge of £1.3 million for rationalisation costs, against a £16 million exceptional profit last time.

Rank Xerox contributed £159 million (£167 million). Earnings per share fell from 70.1p to 38.4p and the final dividend of 20.75p gives an unchanged 31p total.

Borrowings of £961 million give a 64 per cent gearing level, and the increase in interest costs arises mainly from the full-year effect of the assumption of Mecca's borrowings. There is no doubt that Rank paid too much for Mecca (£500 million) at the wrong time, but Michael Gifford, the chief executive, does not regret the purchase. The worst effects of the deal and the subsequent recession should now be behind Rank.

With the exception of film and television, every other division increased trading profits.

Rank's task is to bring down borrowings, which it plans to do with a series of asset disposals, and to curb costs. The video distribution business is likely to take a couple of years to turn round but the rest of the group is well placed for a recovery.

Unfortunately, its move



No regrets: chief executive Michael Gifford (left), with Sir Patrick Meaney yesterday

The shares are yielding a respectable 6% per cent and are trading on 12.8 times earnings, assuming pre-tax profits of £290 million for the current year (BZW). They have recovered sharply in the month but should see further growth as consumer confidence recovers.

ML Holdings

TOLSTOY himself could not have constructed a gloomier plot for ML Holdings' first half. War and peace hit the aerospace and electronic components company in equal measure, plunging ML into the red for the six months to September 30.

The company has been

struggling to redefine itself since the late Eighties, when it correctly perceived that the peace dividend would be paid out of the profits of defence suppliers.

Unfortunately, its move

into civil aerospace coincided with the disastrous slump in that industry triggered by the Gulf conflict. As a result, operating profits halved to £2.4 million in the first six months of the year.

Restructuring costs related to the move out of defence were voluntarily taken above the line, to comply with new accounting standards that came into effect after the end of the period. Pre-tax losses after restructuring charges came in at £1.31 million, compared with a £3.03 million profit last year.

The deterioration in trading performance and the scale of the bottom-line hit caught the market unaware and the shares shed 10p to 43p.

The fall would have been greater had the interim dividend not been held at 8.5p.

Although there are some positive signs — order intake, for example, is looking up —

the outcome for the full year depends heavily on disposals. Several sales of non-core assets are said to be close to completion, but the year-end is only two months away and the climate for disposals is far from favourable.

If the sales are not carried out, full-year losses could be as great as £2 million after further restructuring charges. The full-year dividend would also be under threat. If the disposals do happen, the company could break even and hold the payout.

The shares should be avoided while the downside risk remains so uncertain.

Domino Printing

DOMINO Printing Sciences has the knack of making lots of money, but then its philos-

ophy seems to be: if it moves, print a label on it.

The group's industrial ink jet printing equipment has a wide and growing range of uses, from dates on frozen food products to dates of production on tins of paint.

Domino Printing Sciences also plays a part in the mail shot and personalised mail business; and an impending development is a three-year contract with the Royal Mail that could be worth at least £2 million.

Pre-tax profits rose from £6.09 million to £9.63 million in the year to the end of October on turnover up from £45.9 million to £60.4 million.

A good £2 million of the increase in turnover came from stricter European labelling legislation for food items, which complemented organic growth in the run of the mill business.

Domino turned its previous £700,000 borrowed position into one showing a net cash position of £1.8 million by the end of the year.

A rights issue to raise £15.3 million has been made since the end of the year, so its current net cash position is £17 million — useful for the acquisitions for which it is looking.

Group business links have been extended to include north Africa, Indonesia and China.

Market share was won from a competitor in France and new Spanish operations did well.

A new product line — micrographic printing Domino PackTrack — has gone down well at trade exhibitions, though proper commercial exploitation of the new line is yet to come.

The shares, recommended in *Tempus* a year ago at 18p, rose 22p to 42p yesterday on the recognition that further growth in profits is in store.

Pre-tax profits this year could reach £10.8 million, to put the shares on 15.5 times prospective earnings. That looks pricey, but none the less.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Europe's big airlines suffer 6% traffic fall

EUROPE'S major airlines suffered a 6 per cent drop in passenger traffic last year, their worst setback since the war. Downturns in the early Eighties and during the oil shock of 1973-4 were limited to less than 1 percentage point. The Association of European Airlines (AEA), the industry's main lobby group, said that its 22 members lost 25 per cent of their normal business during the peak three months of the Gulf troubles, and that recovery since has been "painfully slow". The global growth in traffic did not resume again until October and in Europe only in December.

Overall, the airlines carried 7.3 million fewer passengers than in 1990. In comparison, the AEA said that in 1986, after Chernobyl and the bombing of Libya, 1.1 million fewer passengers were carried in five months, but the loss had been recovered by the year end. Air freight also declined last year, by 3 per cent.

Changes at Greycoat

RICHARD Guignard will temporarily take over as chief executive of Greycoat, the property group, while Geoffrey Wilson recuperates after heart surgery. Mr Wilson is expected to return in two or three months, and Mr Guignard will continue as group finance director. Greycoat also announced that Ronald Spinney was stepping down as deputy chairman and joint managing director. Mr Spinney has been largely responsible for Greycoat's successful development programme, which is now complete and fully let. He will remain as a consultant.

Tilney sells for £6.8m

SALE Tilney, the loss-making mini-conglomerate headed by Andrew Coppell, the former finance director of Rathers, has sold Peabody Foods, its UK food division, to Stevens & Brotherton for £6.8 million. The proceeds from the disposal will reduce Sale Tilney Food's borrowings to £15 million. Group borrowings were £28.9 million on January 10. The disposal will result in a £1 million extraordinary loss. Peabody Foods, excluding the profitable dried-pasta business, which is being retained, made a pre-tax loss of £3 million on turnover of £51.7 million last year.

Menvier gains

A THRUST into Europe helped to insulate Menvier Swain's interim profits from the depressed UK market. The US-quoted emergency lighting and fire alarms group reported an increase in the pre-tax figure to £2.77 million (£2.76 million) in the half-year to October 31. Gearing was down to 43 per cent, from 44 per cent a year earlier. Turnover fell from £23.9 million to £19.7 million, although the figures last time included £4.53 million from discontinued businesses. Earnings climbed to 13.3p (12.7p) per share. The interim dividend is 2.7p (2.2p). The shares jumped 21p to 32p.

Resort profits plunge

INTERNATIONAL Resort Holdings, which has interests in golf courses, hotels and corporate hospitality, announced a sharp fall in interim pre-tax profits from £1.65 million to £368,000 for the six months to September 30. There is again no interim dividend. Turnover dropped from £8.08 million to £3 million after the sale of the loss-making nursing homes division and a sharp reduction in development activity. The company said profits from several current projects might not crystallise by the end of the year, "making the outcome for this financial year uncertain".

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THE TIMES FRIDAY JANUARY 31 1992

BUSINESS NEWS 21

Income figures lead recovery Decrease in orders sends dollar on roller-coaster ride

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE dollar dipped sharply because of data showing an unexpectedly big fall in orders for durable goods in America, only to rebound soon after an encouraging personal income figures and quickly denied rumours of a coup in Moscow.

The currency's roller-coaster ride, which left it up 3.5 per cent at DM1.6205 at the

London close, came as the financial markets continued to evaluate the impact President Bush's State of the Union speech and budget plans will have on economic growth. News of the 5 per cent fall in durable goods orders in December, with non-defence orders slumping 8.9 per cent, fuelled fears that the recovery expected by the

administration could still founder. Even excluding the volatile transport sector, orders were down 1.6 per cent. To add to the gloom, claims for initial jobless benefits for the week to January 18 rose 24,000 to 464,000.

The December fall in durable goods was the first monthly drop for three months and the biggest for more than a year. The 4.6 per cent decrease last year made 1991 the worst for the sector for nine years. Forecasters had looked for a December fall of less than 1 per cent.

Figures from the commerce department provided some encouragement, showing that personal income rose 1 per cent in December and pushing the annual rise to 3.3 per cent, marginally ahead of the annual rate of inflation. In 1990, personal incomes grew a nominal 6.8 per cent.

Consumer spending slowed to a 0.3 per cent gain in December after an 0.4 per cent rise in November. Fears about unemployment were seen as the key factor suppressing spending in the pre-Christmas period. The annual rise in spending last year was 3.9 per cent, down from 6.4 per cent in 1990.

Dollar resilience was widely attributed to fading hopes of a fresh interest cut by the American authorities after Wednesday's remarks from Alan Greenspan, the Federal Reserve chairman. The pound fell nearly 3.5 cents at one point, but was little changed against the mark.

■ Bank of England data showed banknotes in circulation up 2.2 per cent in the week to January 29, compared with the equivalent week a year ago. The previous week showed a 1.9 per cent annual rise. The data suggest that MO, the narrow money measure, is signalling no pickup in January.

UK wants to delay financial draft

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

BRITAIN will not try to force through draft EC directives on financial services before the single market comes in at the beginning of next year. Trade ministers think the directives, especially that on investment services, should be dropped for the moment.

This would allow time for agreement to develop between member states led by Britain, which favour open markets and maximum competition, and those led by

France which favour heavier regulation and protection of national markets.

John Redwood, the corporate affairs affairs minister, and Tim Sainsbury, the trade minister, agreed in an interview yesterday that there was no need to rush the directives through. Mr Redwood said:

"We have suggested compromises and concessions. What I hope will happen is that the French position will move on."

A possible compromise over capital adequacy was forged this week at a meeting of international bank and securities regulators in Basle.

It might, for instance, accommodate the London underwriting system, which allows merchant banks to take on, for short periods, risks that are big compared with their capital bases.

The first meeting between members of the International Organisation of Securities Commissions (Iosco) and the Basle committee on banking supervision agreed, in particular, that banking supervisors would aim to apply the same rules as securities regulators.

Unitech slips to £7.8m

Interim pre-tax profits at Unitech, the international electronics group, fell 11 per cent to £7.8 million in the six months to end-November.

The company was affected by slowdowns in the previous

strong Japanese and German markets, and flat market conditions in North America, Britain and France.

The interim dividend has been halved to 2.1p to create a sounder base for future dividend policy. Earnings per share fell by 28 per cent to 4p.

Bass trade deal

Bass, the brewer, has set up trading agreements with two London brewers, Young's, of Wandsworth and Fuller, Smith and Turner, of Chiswick. The Bass public houses in London and the South-East will stock Young's Bitter and Fuller's London Pride. Meanwhile, the regional brewers will take two of Bass's strongest lager brands in their own public houses. Carling Black Label going to Fullers and Tennant's Extra to Young's.

Davies slides

DY Davies, the architectural and building services group, saw pre-tax losses deepen from £203,000 to £426,000 in the six months to end-October, on turnover down from £5.21 million to £3.54 million. There was an exceptional loss of £244,000. The deficit per share increased from 2.4p to 5.4p. Once again, there is no interim dividend.

Prism rises

Prism Leisure Corporation, the wholesale distributor of pre-recorded music and computer games, lifted pre-tax profits by 23.4 per cent to £374,000 in the six months to end-September. Turnover grew by 11 per cent to £5.8 million. Earnings rose 30.4 per cent to 6p (4.6p). The interim dividend is maintained at 1.5p.

Ewart falls

Ewart, the property group, has halved its interim dividend to 2.25p after pre-tax profits slumped from £253,893 to £103,625 in the six months to end-October. Turnover edged up from £1.74 million to £1.79 million. Earnings per share slid from 0.92p to 0.44p.

Scapa buys

Scapa Group is paying Pirelli £6 million for Adenax, maker of industrial adhesive tapes. The company recently lost a

Photo-Me raises dividend by 8%

By JONATHAN PRYNN

INTERIM pre-tax profits at Photo-Me International, the world's largest maker of photo booths, inched forward to £8.7 million from £8.5 million during the six months to the end of October.

The pre-tax figure was struck after foreign exchange losses of £123,000 compared with a £875,000 loss for the previous first half-year. The depreciation charge increased from 5.1 million to £5.6 million.

David Miller, the group managing director, described the result as creditable at a time of worldwide recession.

The company predicted that profits for the year as a whole would be comparable to the £17.1 million achieved last year. This would result in an improvement in attributable profits, assuming no further material movements in exchange rates, Mr Miller said.

Turnover for the period rose 15 per cent to £62.2 million. The interim dividend is increased by 8 per cent to 1.3p (1.2p) and will be paid from earnings of 9.37p (7.81p).

The company also an-

nounced a change in accounting policy on goodwill. From now, all goodwill is to be written off in the year in which it occurs. The write-off in the current year will include goodwill carried forward of £4.5 million, together with further goodwill arising from the acquisition of interests in the French and Belgian subsidiaries last June.

The shares rose 6p to 306p.



Miller: creditable result

Vosper to shed 350 jobs

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

VOSPER Thorneycroft, the Southampton warship builder, has halved its interim dividend to 2.25p after pre-tax profits slumped from £253,893 to £103,625 in the six months to end-October.

Turnover edged up from £1.74 million to £1.79 million. Earnings per share slid from 0.92p to 0.44p.

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Scapa Group is paying Pirelli £6 million for Adenax, maker of industrial adhesive tapes. The company recently lost a



Challenging government: Morgan wants 'sacred cows' distanced from political control

Privatise motorways and buildings, IoD chief urges

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

A CALL for the privatisation of motorways and government buildings was issued yesterday by Peter Morgan, the director general of the Institute of Directors.

Mr Morgan appealed for the government to place them next on its "for sale" list, after British Rail, British Coal and postal services. He also urged ministers to find ways of distancing "sacred cows" such as the BBC, the health service and education from political control.

The NHS is just another producer-dominated monopoly — another nationalised industry," Mr Morgan told institute members in Belfast. Nationalised institutions were "political and not commercial entities. They respond to political and not economic pressure."

He added: "Financing the public sector is not decided by customer demand or the evaluation of capital markets. It depends upon political assessment of what the public will bear resources available at a point in the economic cycle, and the political pull of the minister and his civil servants."

Distancing more public institutions from political control would ensure they were more responsive to their customers, he said.

The organisation's call for further substitution of market forces for political judgement is unsurprising, but it does indicate that right-wing intellectuals will expect further reductions in the role of the state if the Conservatives win the election.

Mr Morgan also challenged the government to use its presidency of the European Community during the latter half of this year to put privatisation on the agenda of the European market.

"You cannot have a free market in Europe while nationalisation persists and while uncommercial behaviour

exists in the property companies and the government should rent like everyone else."

Mr Morgan also suggested that the privatisation of motorways — and introducing tolls on them — would restrict their use, cutting congestion and pollution.

Mr Morgan also suggested that Russian production would slacken.

Results for third quarter and nine months to 31 December, 1991

	Third quarter 3 months ended 31 December (unaudited)	1991 £m	Cumulative 9 months ended 31 December (unaudited)	1991 £m	1990 £m
Third Quarter Results					
Turnover	3,292	3,278	9,924	9,753	
Operating profit	831	880	2,611	2,632	
Profit before tax	759	787	2,369	2,319	
Profit after tax	512	531	1,599	1,565	
Earnings per share	8.2p	8.6p	25.6p	25.4p	

"In the announcement of the half year's results, I said that near term prospects would be depressed by competitive and regulatory pressures in the absence of any significant growth in turnover. In the event, turnover in the third quarter was almost flat, as there was insufficient growth in the economy to offset competitive pressures and the first full quarter's impact of the new and tougher price cap of RPI minus 6.25 per cent."

"In the third quarter our continued pursuit of productivity, as well as quality improvements held the decline in earnings per share to 4.6 per cent. Growth in earnings for the nine months was one per cent. Near term prospects remain depressed."

Iain Vallance
Chairman
30 January 1992

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EC and Russians seek to resolve aluminium dispute

FROM TOM WALKER
IN BRUSSELS

President Yeltsin has decreed that the amount of metal supplied by smelters to Russia's construction industry in the first quarter of the year must be at least 70 per cent of that delivered in the same period last year.

Russian aluminium exports to the West soared to over 1 million tonnes last year, from 300,000 in 1990. That precipitated a catastrophic fall in prices.

In September, 1990, aluminium was selling for \$2,100 a tonne on the London metal exchange; by last October, its price had fallen to between \$1,100 and \$1,200 a tonne.

The price is about half what it was, and the European industry cannot survive much longer," a commission official said yesterday. He said the commission hoped to find "a solution other than quotas" with the Russians, but "special measures" might have to be taken.

According to commission figures, smelting capacity in Britain will be reduced to 70,000 tonnes this year and the community's overall capacity will slip to about 1.5 million tonnes — a quarter of the 1988 level.

The official said aluminium companies in the community needed an average price of \$1,500 to break even and closures were expected this year.

The Russian aluminium producer, Concernalumini, has boosted sales to the West in response to President Yeltsin's demand for increased foreign currency earnings.

"We've got to convince them to sell more to their domestic market," said Jacques Spaas, director of Europeaux, a non-ferrous metals lobby based in Brussels.

However, another commission official said quotas were "politically unacceptable" at the moment. There were signs that Russian production would slacken.

MRG said there was no inter-company debt between itself and Panfida and that MRG was now effectively owned by the syndicate of banks that provides its medium-term debt and working capital.

RENTECH FUNDING LIMITED

The Company has approved, by a special resolution dated 28th January 1992 a payment of £5,500,000 out of its capital for the purpose of acquiring its own shares by redemption.

The statutory declaration of the directors of the Company and the auditor's report required by section 173, Companies Act 1985, are available at the registered office of the Company at 20 Fenchurch Street, London EC3P 3DB.

Any creditor of the Company may at any time within five weeks following 28th January 1992 apply to the court under section 176 for an order prohibiting the payment.

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1000 STREET, WARRINGTON,
WA4 1BD, ENGLAND

STOCK MARKET

Albert Fisher shares under pressure

THE shares in Albert Fisher, the fresh fruit and vegetable group that has been built by Tony Millar, were beating a ragged retreat after another series of hefty profit downgrades. The price ended 6p lower at 71p — making a two-day loss of 12p — as more than 6 million Fisher shares changed hands.

The price has been declining for sometime with analysts worried about profits because of growing competition in America from Sisco, Fisher's biggest rival. This, in turn, has weakened the company's rating, so preventing it from making further acquisitions and thereby fueling earnings growth.

Tony Millar, the chairman, has been talking to various fund managers this week. He has painted a gloomy picture, which has prompted analysts to begin downgrading profits again. Competition in America — which accounts for about 40 per cent of group profits — has intensified.

Yesterday, Hoare Govett, County NatWest WoodMac and Carr Kicat & Aitken were all believed to have reduced their profit forecasts

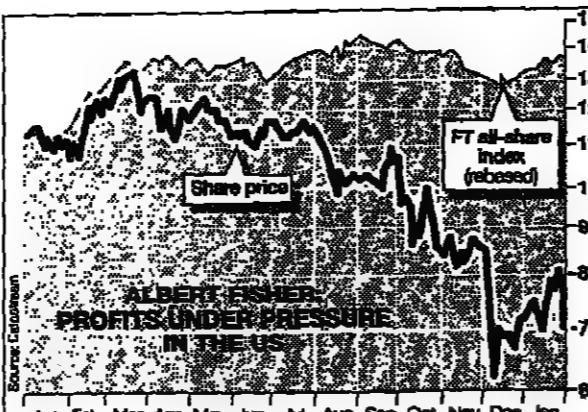
again. Most of them had been looking for pre-tax profits of about £95 million before Christmas. This was later eroded to about £85 million. Most brokers are now forecasting a final outcome for the current year, to August, of about £82 million. This compares with £89 million last time.

Elsewhere, share prices in London put up another resilient performance in the wake of a 4-point fall overnight on Wall Street. Investors are pinning their hopes on an imminent cut in domestic interest rates.

This enabled the FT-SE 100 index to recover from an early fall of almost 13 points despite worries about the economic situation. Interest was heightened by revived talk of a bid soon for one of the top 100 companies.

The index ended 4.3 points higher at 2,550.8, helped by a firm opening on Wall Street. Dealers reported some good, two-way business with a total of 680 million traded.

Talk in the marketplace



Source: Bloomberg
PROFITS UNDER PRESSURE
IN THE FT-SE 100

is that Hoare Govett, the firm's chairman, refuses to comment. Government securities had a lackluster day,

Lasmo spent a volatile day before closing 1p firmer at 250p. On Monday, Kleinwort Benson, the broker, remains a long-term buyer, but has downgraded its estimate of the asset value from 390p to 317p per share after taking a more conservative view of tax shelters and exploration acreage. Kleinwort still expects good earnings growth from existing projects and further disposals from the Ultramar group, which was taken over recently.

ent company, Security Pacific, merged with the Bank of America. The word is that Hoare Govett, the broker, may be close to a European bank, but Peter

reversing early gains of 1p at the longer end. Fisons remains the speculators' favourite bid target among the big companies. The price

ended 14p better at 396p. On Monday, rival Medeva denied suggestions that it planned to bid. Now there is talk that ICI, unchanged at 12.59, may be casting its side rule over the company. The general view in the City is that Fisons is vulnerable to a bid.

Meanwhile, Medeva responded to a presentation for fund managers with a rise of 15p to 279p.

SmithKline Beecham A enjoyed an early mark-up of 16p to 934p in the wake of overnight reports from New York that the group had developed an anti-Aids drug. But the company claimed to be mystified by the story. A spokesman said: "We know nothing of it."

BT rose 4p to 329p after a series of third-quarter figures which were in line with market expectations.

GEC responded warmly to the figures from BT with a rise of 7p to 209p. It is hoped that BT's investment programme will provide further work for GEC.

Shares in the Rank Organisation responded to some better than expected full-year

figures with a rise of 47p to 642p.

Amber Day, the discount retailer, remains friendless, with the price falling another 8p to 71p. The shares have not recovered from a bear raid earlier this month. Dealers say there is little prospect of a sustained rally at present.

Polymark International, the engineering group, responded positively to news of a bid approach, finishing 7p better at 30p.

Usher-Walker, the printing ink and roller maker where acquisitions specialist David Williams is corporate development director, lost 7p to 158p after a line of 250,000 shares, or 5.7 per cent of the equity, was sold at 148p.

Imperial Group Pension Trust and Imperial Group Pension Investments, which act as trustees for Imperial Tobacco and Hanson pension funds, were the buyers, topping up their stake in Usher to 12.1 per cent.

The seller is believed to have been Manders, Usher-Walker's rival, which had previously built up a stake of 7 per cent.

MICHAEL CLARK

American blue chips rise in late morning

New York — The Dow Jones industrial average was 4 points higher at 3,228.96 in directionless trading in the late morning after rising to 3,240.

Investors who missed the year's rally used Wednesday's selling, the steepest since mid-November, as an entry point, but many remained cautious about interest rates.

Frankfurt — The bourse overcame an early technical correction as heavy demand for shares in Volkswagen turned the market around. The Dax index ended 8.51 points higher at 1,680.91, having fallen as low as 1,666.

Sydney — The market managed to end just slightly down despite a tumble on Wall Street overnight.

The all-ordinary index closed 9.6 lower at 1,612.5 after being down 6.7 points from Wednesday's close but above the day's low of 1,521.10. (Reuters)

Tokyo closes firmer

Tokyo — Share prices ended firmer on bargain-hunting and futures buying. The Nikkei index rose 195.41 points, or 0.91 per cent, to 21,557.67. Turnover rose to about 250 million shares compared with 206 million on Wednesday.

Investors felt safer about buying, encouraged that the heavy institutional selling before the end of the financial year appeared to be dwindling or fading buyers.

The market opened weaker on New York's 47-point drop on Wednesday and the index was 27.46 points lower after 15 minutes. However, the sellers were unaggressive and light buying soon reversed the slide. The index reached its high for the day in the mid-afternoon — with a rise of 416.88 points — and then

slipped on profit-taking.

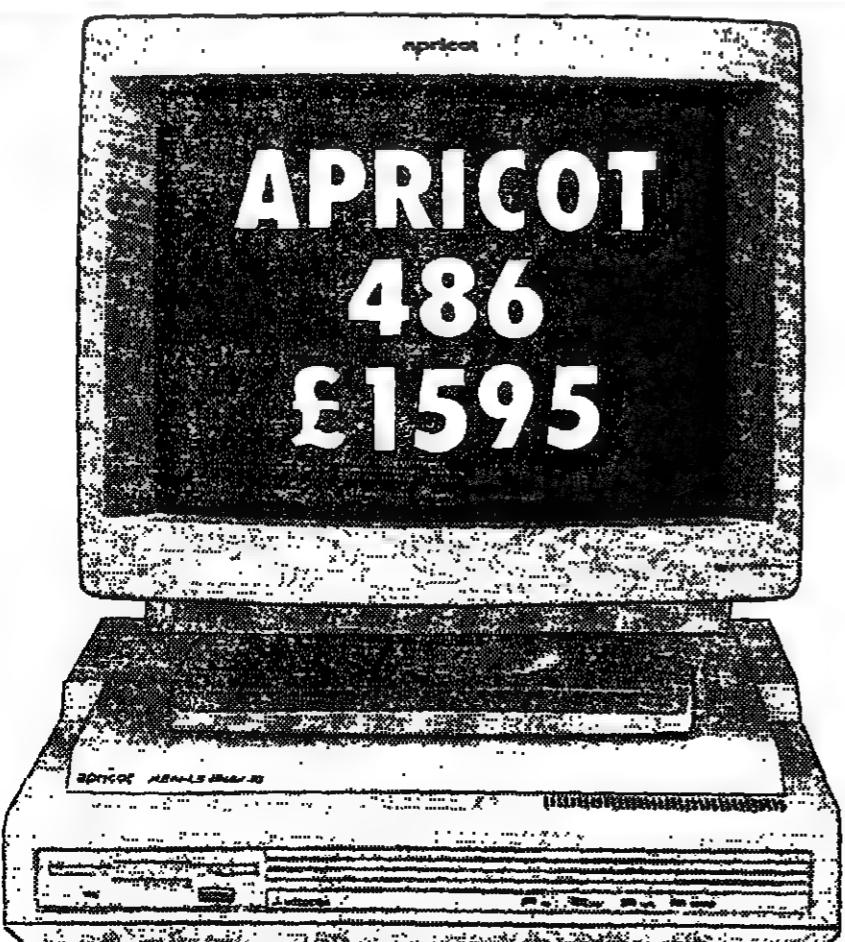
Much of the volume resulted from pre-marched buy and sell-orders by institutions. However, such crosses tended to appear late in the portfolio adjustments being made before book-closing and do not put pressure on prices like the recent unmatched selling.

George Nimmo of SBCI Securities, said: "Some are taking heart that whoever is selling, the buyers are being found. There is a feeling that the market has reached a short-term bottom."

The main rising sectors were communications, non-life insurance, railway/bus, banking, real, electrical, service pharmaceuticals, rubber and miscellaneous manufacturing.

Only the credit/lease sector declined. (Reuters)

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486SX COMPARISONS				
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Dell Systems 486d/20	4Mb	40Mb	VGA	£1764
Tandon MCS	4Mb	40Mb	VGA	£1599
Compaq Deskpro Model 60	4Mb	60Mb	SVGA	£2598

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APRICOT XEN-LS SYSTEMS				
Processor	RAM	Hard disk	Price incl. 14" mono monitor	Price incl. 14" colour monitor
16MHz 386SX	1Mb	N/A	£845	£1045
16MHz 386SX	1Mb	50Mb	£1095	£1295
16MHz 386SX	1Mb	100Mb	£1295	£1495
20MHz 386SX	2Mb	50Mb	£1195	£1395
20MHz 386SX	2Mb	100Mb	£1395	£1595
20MHz 486SX	4Mb	50Mb	£1595	£1795
20MHz 486SX	4Mb	100Mb	£1795	£1995
20MHz 486SX	4Mb	240Mb	£2145	£2345

All models include 1.44Mb floppy drive, keyboard, MS-DOS, hard disk models also include Windows 3.0 & mouse.

APRICOT NOTEBOOK SYSTEMS			
Models	Processor	Disk	Price
Apricot NT 386SX/40	16MHz 386SX	40Mb	£1445
Apricot NT 386SX/60	16MHz 386SX	60Mb	£1545

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No horrors from Carsberg

The market's relief that Sir Bryan Carsberg's latest brace of green papers has not produced any real horrors to upset BT is probably overdone. The regulator may have made some threatening noises in the past over one-off price cuts, a more fair split of the benefits of years of cost-cutting between shareholders and customers or even a complete break-up.

But none of these were really in the frame, not least for political reasons given the millions tempted into BT by the recent share issue and still nursing scant profits. The most likely main outcome to the regulatory review, as indicated by Sir Bryan himself, remains a simple adjustment of the so-called X factor governing the relationship between retail price inflation and BT's tariff rises.

There is no indication anywhere in the green papers that Sir Bryan shares some of the more extreme views of BT as a profiteer abusing a near-monopoly. He says BT's return on capital employed for 1992-93, if the existing price cap were to continue at RPI minus 6.25, would be 20 per cent, ahead of the level forecast when the formula was put in place.

Meanwhile returns are currently running about 2 per cent ahead of OFTEL's forecasts. But this is blamed on higher than expected inflation rather than any intrinsic financial outperformance.

BT itself has apparently taken the view that all this concentration on return on capital employed presages a further tightening of the regulatory screw, to judge from an apparently defensive insistence that annualised rates of return fell 3 per cent in the third quarter.

But Sir Bryan has rejected a regulatory regime based on rate of return, while accepting that BT's level of profitability may be overstated by its reliance on historic cost accounting. These are hardly the words of a regulator who is planning a crowd-pleasing onslaught on what is still one of the least popular corporations in Britain today.

Gas pressure

Clearing the way for importation of natural gas was long overdue. The original logic of banning imports in order to promote development of British offshore gas fields is no longer the Government's top priority. These days, promoting competition for the dominant supplier, British Gas, has become the prime objective. In any case, unless the import barriers came down, domestic supplies would eventually have become tight. But the new approach which was detailed yesterday has other benefits too. Germany has already started to receive supplies of cheap gas from the former Soviet Union. There is a great deal more available and the Russians are keen to extend the trade in search of much needed hard currency earnings. Britain's more liberal policy toward cross-border trade in energy is an essential part of any EC plans to develop free trade in gas, eventually through a pan-European grid system. In the long run, cheap Russian gas ought to be available to Britain either through British Gas or the growing number of companies keen to compete in the market for industrial gas. For the moment though the government is looking at a proposal to build a pipeline for the export of gas in the opposite direction.

Meanwhile, allowing imports will certainly speed up the development of clean burn gas fired power stations and help the Government in its aim of reducing British Gas's share of the industrial market from around three-quarters to 40 per cent. Like BT, the future is looking tougher for British Gas.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Duckett joins Milne's team

OLD times are back at SG Warburg Securities where Duncan Duckett, dozen of investment trusts in the Square Mile, is poised to join Garth Milne's highly regarded team. But his departure will inevitably leave a sizeable hole in the management at Marshall & Co., the small stockbroker, which is in negotiations to buy itself out from Lombard Odier, its Swiss bank parent, and hopes to refocus on smaller companies. Duckett, deputy chairman of Marshall for the past five years, will be re-united with Roger Adams, whom he has known since their days as jobbers at Pinchin's Dents. "We've been expanding and were looking for a very experienced pair of hands to help out," says Milne, who led his team to Warburgs at the time of Big Bang. Meanwhile, it emerges that Tim Sinclair, who left BZW last autumn, joins Panmure Gordon on Monday to head its investment trust team.

Desai's change
AFTER five years as an options broker, anyone would be ready for a change of scenery. So it is for Raj Desai, a member of James Capes's top Excalibur options team since 1987, who works his last day today before leaving to set up a private investment company. "I thought it was time to try something new," says Desai, aged 30, who will be running a shares fund for private clients using some of the know-how he has picked up in the market. City regula-



tors willing, he will be in business in a couple of months with "a couple of hundred thousand" in funds to start off with.

Export line
BRIAN Willott, chief executive of the Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD), the government body that provides medium- and long-term credit insurance for the nation's exporters, faced the press for the first time yesterday and found he still has a lot to learn. Discussing the ECGD's financial reports for the past year, he was asked if it was true that two of his staff had visited Iran last November. Willott quickly turned to an aide and was heard to enquire: "Have they come back yet?"

Locked in
THE Lanesborough Hotel at Hyde Park Corner opened at a cost of £100 million, has everything a guest could desire. Or does it? Despite spending a fortune convert-

The boardroom curse that lurks . . . a Stamford Bridge too far

Football may be back in fashion but, as Matthew Bond reports, for businessmen it continues to be a knockout competition

Luciano Pavarotti and the lachrymose Paul Gascoigne have an awful lot to answer for. When they began two years ago with a few moments of midfield, midsummer magic has turned into a full-blooded revival in the fortunes of our national game. Football is back in favour.

And not just on the terraces. With John Major and David Mellor now regular visitors to Chelsea's Stamford Bridge ground, there can be no doubt that a previously flag-happy Establishment has ruled soccer, very clearly, back outside.

As revivals go, soccer's has been remarkable but already it has struck a chill into the hearts and wallets of those who prefer to watch such action from the comfort of their City trading floors. For what wise City heads know is that where politicians lead, the business community follows. And as the same sages know, all too often to their cost, when business leads to football what often follows is disaster.

Predicting the precise form of disaster is not easy. But the basic premise appears to be that a successful business career and a successful involvement in a football club are mutually exclusive occupations. Something has to give. The fun thing, at least for those not directly involved, is discovering what. The long road to Wembley may be littered with the shattered dreams of generations of players, but that pernicious route is strewn too with the broken careers of those who own or run football clubs.

Most recently the City was rocked by the sudden resignation of John Kerridge, the chairman and chief executive of Fisons, the drug and garden products company. Rumour chased rumour, as a sceptical City sought an alternative to the official explanations of ill health. But amid the tumult, a few older heads just nodded quietly to themselves. They remembered that seven years ago Mr Kerridge had become a director of his beloved Ipswich Town football club. The curse of football had struck again.

Nine months earlier the same wise men had sadly shaken their heads at the news that Sir Roland Smith was to become chairman of Manchester United. Would none of these apparently able executives ever realise their folly in swapping their season tickets for a seat in the directors' box? Seemingly not. Within five months Sir Roland was axed as chairman of British Aerospace.

Just as inevitably, the newly floated Manchester United shares slumped to an immediate discount and still stand more than 40% below their issue price. Top of division one, average gates of over 40,000 — it matters not. From



Manchester United to Millwall, from Tottenham to Hibernian, it is abundantly clear that corporate football and corporate finance simply do not mix.

No one knows when, or whom, the football curse will strike next; the only certainty is that strike it will. Indeed, so reliable a portent of doom to football that in the right hands it becomes a powerful analytical tool. For the few remaining touch players in the City, a boardroom involvement in football is a stronger sell signal than any radio methodically ground out by a less

"As City sages know, when business leads to football, what often follows is disaster."

imaginative, number-crunching colleague: it ranks above personalised number plates, the London pied à terre and the private helicopter.

For those with the strength of character to keep faith with such signals, the news that Robert Maxwell had disappeared off his luxury yacht came as little surprise. From the day in 1981 when he bought Oxford United, the curse of football had hung over his unathletic form.

Something would have to give and eventually the stern wire on the *Lady Ghislaine* did. If involvement with just one football club is sufficient to

prompt a serious career setback, Mr Maxwell's relentless enthusiasm for football clubs had made a spectacular departure a certainty. Not content with buying Oxford United, where he later installed his unfortunate son Kevin, Mr Maxwell went on to buy Derby County and at various times attempted to buy Reading, Watford, Manchester United and, just a few months before his death, Tottenham Hotspur. Such avarice can only have made a sticky end inevitable.

Sadly Mr Maxwell's is not the only death to have been brought on by a surfeit of football clubs. Five years ago David Bulstrode, in his capacity as chairman of Marler Estates, became the owner of two London football clubs and three grounds when Marler added Queens Park Rangers to a portfolio that already included Fulham as well as Chelsea's Stamford Bridge ground. It was clearly a football club too far, even for the likeable Mr Bulstrode. Just 18 months later Mr Bulstrode unexpectedly departed to the great grandstand in the sky. The curse had struck again.

Robert Noonan, Marler's chief executive, was not one to ignore such powerful signals. Within six months, QPR was sold to David Thompson, co-founder of the Hillsdown Holdings empire. Marler was taken over by John Duggan's Cabria Holdings and Mr Noonan departed some £15 million the richer. Mr Thompson also wisely left nothing to fate and confirmed his son Richard

as QPR chairman. So, three years on, Mr Thompson and Mr Noonan are still wealthy men. By contrast, Richard Thompson's own public company, Union Square, last year announced pre-tax losses of £10.5 million and a £6.4 million rights issue underwritten by his father's private interests. While for his part, John Duggan, despite professing a lack of interest in the game, has seen the Cabria share price fall from a placing price of 110p to just 74p. Coincidence? Well maybe.

Alan Sugar, the long-time chairman of Amstrad and now chairman

"For touch players in the City, a boardroom involvement in football is a strong sell signal"

and saviour of Tottenham Hotspur, will certainly be hoping so. Like Mr Duggan, Mr Sugar clearly believes that a certain emotional detachment from the game's all too consuming passions will see him through. So far this emotional detachment has involved setting off the aggregated might of Robert Maxwell, Irving Scholar, Tony Berry and Paul Broboff, and seen Mr Sugar commit £13 million of his personal fortune to the club. One wonders what will happen should he ever get emotionally involved.

"I have not invested in a football club, I have invested in a company which just happens to own one," Mr Sugar said recently, apparently ignoring the ghastly precedents set by clubs that have diversified into other areas. Two months ago Reg Burr's Millwall Holdings unveiled a £2.7 million loss, having bought a pub chain for £10 million in January 1990, only to sell it 19 months later for £2.4 million.

While Millwall has problems both on and off the pitch, David Murray appears to be enjoying some success with Rangers, bought for £6 million in 1988. Off the pitch he has proved a little less fortunate, losing over £4 million on the short-lived *Sunday Scour* newspaper last year. A gentle warning, perhaps?

But still the thwarted boardroom

centre forwards advance, eager for the taste of victory. The latest of these is Sir John Hall, who after a three-year ban, finally became chairman of Newcastle United last month. Sir John made a fortune developing the vast Metro Centre, in Gateshead, and has so far spent £3 million on winning control of the Magpies. Already he has pledged £10 million to bring the glory days back to St James's Park.

Tonight, weather permitting, Sir John's new team visits the Headington home of Oxford United, now once again under threat as the Maxwell empire disintegrates. The chairman might do well to forgo the normal pre-match exercises and join his players in a little pre-match exorcism. Better make it a big one.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Phasing out mortgage tax relief to boost the housing market

From Mr N.H. Lee

Sir, We do not need Mr Norman Lamont to be radical in his approach to housing as his

Mr Kalesky suggests in his article (Economic View, January 27), merely sensible and even-handed.

Mortgage tax relief appears

to favour owner occupiers

at the expense of both

tenants and the landlords of

residential property.

In the long run, the advan-

tage is more apparent than

real since the relief given

works through to higher

house prices.

An agreement between all

the political parties to

phase out mortgage tax relief

Rubbish on offer

From Mrs C. Sanders

Sir, Consumer confidence in

stagnant decline (January 29)?

Rubbish. Which is exactly what

is being offered to us.

Blinded buyers, intimidated

by fashion "experts", load

their hapless colleagues with

dull, dreary, dreadfully de-

signated clothing and house-

wares, expecting them to

make and sell this stuff.

Consumers are being treated

as though they have crawled

from under some unsavoury

stone and the best course of

action would be to return as

unobtrusively as possible.

Continuing to follow the

examples and attitudes of their

superiors, these assistants then

contemptuously draw the

stock phrase that the colour or

style wanted is out of fashion —

a more lunatic response to

requests for classic styles and

ordinary colours is impossible

to imagine. I suggest a panel of

non-executive buyers, properly

representative of all hoped-for

consumers, should be part of the

selection process before goods are ordered.

I know the blame for the

recession will eventually end up

with me — after world econo-

mics, wage increases, ineffi-

cient work practices, etc have

been exhausted. I take comfort

in the fact that I keep my cash

and do not contribute to exces-

sive executive salaries.

Yours faithfully,

CHRISTINE SANDERS,

Danecon Rise, 15 West Road,

Barton Stacey, Hampshire.

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SIEMENS

Information for Siemens shareholders

Growth slackens in the first quarter

Interim report on the first quarter (1 October to 31 December 1991) of the fiscal year 1992.

Following strong expansion of Siemens' business last year, the first quarter was marked by slower growth. This was due to both the exceptional upsurge in business in the same period last year and current downward trends in the world economy. Demand, particularly for our standard industrial products, remained weak. Some operating groups also have been affected by slackening demand in Germany as well as in international markets.

Orders were marginally lower than last year, but sales rose 6%. Income after taxes also increased 6% to DM398 million.

Orders

Siemens, comprising Siemens AG and its consolidated domestic and international companies, booked orders totaling DM20.1 billion (1991: DM20.4 billion) in the period under review. Orders failed to match last year's high volume when the Public Communication Networks, Power Generation (KWU) and Transportation Systems groups won a series of major contracts, mostly from international customers. This largely explains the 5% decrease in international orders. Domestic orders, however, grew a further 4%. Virtually all Siemens operating

groups have been affected by weaker international demand for standard products. Demand is slackening in some sectors in Germany, as well.

DM billion	1/10/90 to 31/12/90	1/10/91 to 31/12/91	Change
Orders	20.4	20.1	-1%
Domestic business	8.8	9.1	+4%
International business	11.6	11.0	-5%

Sales

Sales rose 6% to DM16.2 billion (1991: DM15.4 billion). Here too, domestic growth was stronger; sales rose 9% to DM7.6 billion (1991: DM7.0 billion) compared with a 3% increase in international sales to DM8.6 billion (1991: DM8.4 billion). Due to the upsurge in the volume of orders last year, Siemens expects sales for the whole of fiscal year 1992 to expand around 10% to more than DM80 billion.

DM billion	1/10/90 to 31/12/90	1/10/91 to 31/12/91	Change
Sales	15.4	16.2	+6%
Domestic business	7.0	7.6	+9%
International business	8.4	8.6	+3%

Employees

The number of employees reached a new high of around 419,000 on 31 December 1991. The work force grew 17,000 or 4% compared with the end of fiscal year 1991 which ended September 30. This was mainly due to the consolidation of new companies in eastern Germany. The increase more than offset adjustments in employment levels in various operating groups. Personnel costs rose 13% to DM8.2 billion (1991: DM7.2 billion).

in thousands	30/9/91	31/12/91	Change
Employees	402	419	+4%
Domestic operations	243	260	+7%
International operations	159	159	0%

DM billion	1/10/90 to 31/12/90	1/10/91 to 31/12/91	Change
Personnel costs	7.2	8.2	+13%

Without temporary student workers and trainees

Capital spending and net income

Capital spending in the period under review reached DM2.2 billion (1991: DM0.9 billion). This exceptional rise is due above all to an increased investment in Siemens Nixdorf Informationssysteme AG, the acquisition of the industrial controls activities of Texas Instruments, Inc., Dallas, Texas, and higher capital expenditure on property, plant and equipment. Net income after taxes rose 6% to DM398 million (1991: DM377 million).

Capital expenditure and investments	1/10/90 to 31/12/90	1/10/91 to 31/12/91	Change
DM billion	0.9	2.2	+134%
Net income after taxes	377	398	+6%
DM billion			

unaudited accounts

Redundancies to reach 8,000

Loss-making Usinor increases number of jobs to be cut

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU, EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

USINOR Saclor, the French steel maker, will shed 8,000 jobs by the end of 1994.

The job losses are 1,300 more than previously expected and highlight the growing difficulties for the European steel industry.

News of the redundancies, which form part of a rationalisation drive, came just after Usinor, Europe's largest steel maker, announced a Fr3.1 billion net loss for 1991, compared with last time's Fr3.5 billion profit.

Francis Mer, the chair-

man, said: "We are practically certain to make money in terms of our net results this year, which will probably not see an improvement in the economy." The scale of the 1991 losses was a direct result of an unspecified charge for restructuring, as well as a Fr1.6 billion charge earmarked for redundancy payments. On an operating level, Usinor achieved a modest Fr40 million surplus, compared with Fr 4.4 billion in 1990.

Last year was one of the

worst in recent memory for the European steel industry, which has been hit by a price war in response to industry-wide overcapacity. British Steel, Europe's second-largest steel maker, is to close the Runcraig steel plant in Scotland, while Krupp and Hoesch, two of the largest steel makers in Germany, are negotiating a merger that will also result in large redundancies.

Mr Mer said that the French steel industry needed

overall economic growth of about 2.5 per cent in order to increase sales volumes, but

the return to such levels of economic growth would not happen before 1993. Last year, world steel output fell 4.5 per cent.

Most redundancies will occur in France, where the workforce is set to fall to 51,500 by 1994, against 58,690 in 1990, after the planned closure of four steel works.

At the end of last year, the European Commission gave the go-ahead for a plan by Crédit Lyonnais, the state-owned French bank, to inject Fr2.5 billion in new capital into Usinor in return for a 10 per cent state stake. The commission had investigated the deal on suspicions that the capital injection could amount to disguised state aid. The clearance of the Crédit Lyonnais stake was heavily criticised by other European steel makers, including British Steel.

However, Usinor received some good news yesterday from Moody's Investors Service, the American credit rating agency, which allocated the top prime-one rating to Usinor's Fr10-billion commercial paper programme. Commercial paper is a form of short-term debt, normally with a maturity of up to one year.

Contracting profits fell from Fr319,000 to Fr22,000, although an improvement is expected in the second half.

Earnings per share rose to 4.8p (2.8p). The interim dividend has been maintained at 1.5p.

Airline is auctioned for \$419m

FROM ABBY TAN
IN MANILA

A CONSORTIUM of Philippine business groups bought the state-owned Philippine Airlines for \$419 million at a public auction. The floor price, set by the government, minutes before bidding took place, was \$319 million.

There are two components in the winning bid by AB Capital Investment Corporation: a cash payment of \$150 million and the balance in Philippine debt paper.

Jesus Estanislao, finance secretary, who presided over the bidding, said: "I am very pleased. This is more than we expected." The sale represented 67 per cent of the government's interest in the airline. The government's stake is now 13 per cent. The other 20 per cent is owned by the pension fund for state employees.

The consortium has engaged Korean Airlines as technical adviser in managing Philippine Airlines.

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THE TIMES FRIDAY JANUARY 31 1992

EQUITY PRICES 25

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From your Portfolio Platinum, you can check your equity portfolio movements on this overall total and check this against the daily dividend figures. If it matches you have won and can cash out. If it does not, you have lost and need to stay in. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always keep your card safe when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No	Company	Group	Code or Name	Price	No	Yield	Price
1	Kingfisher	Drapery, Svc		112	5	5.0	112
2	Sainsbury J.	Food		172	10	5.0	172
3	Unilever	Electrical		125	10	5.0	125
4	Sage Gp	Electrical		125	10	5.0	125
5	De La Rue	Industries		125	10	5.0	125
6	Bryant	Building Bds		125	10	5.0	125
7	Seven Trent	Water		125	10	5.0	125
8	Rothmans T	Tobacco		125	10	5.0	125
9	THORN EMI	Electrical		125	10	5.0	125
10	Widmer	Industrial		125	10	5.0	125
11	Vader	Electrical		125	10	5.0	125
12	Swatch Gp	Watch/Pvt		125	10	5.0	125
13	Los March Svc	Property		125	10	5.0	125
14	Sloane Stevens	Property		125	10	5.0	125
15	Austin Br Fins	Transport		125	10	5.0	125
16	BBM Gp	Industrial		125	10	5.0	125
17	Broadford Ind	Building Bds		125	10	5.0	125
18	Andrea Spies	Industrial		125	10	5.0	125
19	Marshallfield	Electronics		125	10	5.0	125
20	Fine Art Dev	Drapery, Svc		125	10	5.0	125
21	Honey	Industrial		125	10	5.0	125
22	BT	Electrical		125	10	5.0	125
23	Ranger	Oil, Gas		125	10	5.0	125
24	Wool Water	Water		125	10	5.0	125
25	Wilson Brooks	Building Bds		125	10	5.0	125
26	Redland	Building Bds		125	10	5.0	125
27	BBG	Transport		125	10	5.0	125
28	Br Alvey	Transport		125	10	5.0	125
29	BTG	Industrial		125	10	5.0	125
30	Gold Crossan	Paper/Pkgs		125	10	5.0	125
31	AB Food	Food		125	10	5.0	125
32	Headline	Shares 1st		125	10	5.0	125
33	Cable Wholes	Electrical		125	10	5.0	125
34	Lloyd	Bank/Ins		125	10	5.0	125
35	Thatched Park	Property		125	10	5.0	125
36	Commodore	Industrial		125	10	5.0	125
37	Hawthorn Fins	Food		125	10	5.0	125
38	MTL Inc	Electrical		125	10	5.0	125
39	William Fidg	Industrial		125	10	5.0	125
40	Green King	Breweries		125	10	5.0	125
41	Heidke Res	Property		125	10	5.0	125
42	Anglo Water	Water		125	10	5.0	125
43	Vicks	Industrial		125	10	5.0	125
44	Midland	Bank/Ins		125	10	5.0	125
45	Times Newspl. Ltd.	Total		125	10	5.0	125

Please note into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividends

Please make a note of your dividend amounts for the weekly dividend of £1,000 in tomorrow's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON

There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. The £2,000 will be added to today's competition.

1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	No	Yield	Price

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	No	Yield	Price

BREWERIES

1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	No	Yield	Price

BREWING

1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	No	Yield	Price

BUILDING, ROADS

1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	No	Yield	Price

INDUSTRIALS

1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	No	Yield	Price

INDUSTRIALS

1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	No	Yield	Price

INDUSTRIALS

1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	No	Yield	Price

INDUSTRIALS

1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	No	Yield	Price

INDUSTRIALS

1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	No	Yield	Price

INDUSTRIALS

1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	No	Yield	Price

INDUSTRIALS

1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	No	Yield	Price

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England struggling to recover from a poor start after being asked to bat in the second Test

New Zealand seize the initiative on a bowlers' pitch

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN AUCKLAND

THE psychology of playing on a poor pitch is never to consider the odds. Graham Gooch, suspecting the worst, had been preaching as much to his side for several days before this second Test match began and yet, four overs into the game, with England a sickly nine for three, his wise words seemed wasted.

It is true that almost anything constitutes a recovery after so dire a start. It is also true that 146 for seven hardly qualifies for a lap of honour. But by close of play last night England were at least back in the game, their destiny to some degree in their own hands.

Few Test matches begin with such a clear-cut case for winning the toss and bowling. Seldom, indeed, is the preparation of a pitch for a positive result quite so blatant. It was not only left green, it was also damp. It produced for a county game, it might easily have cost the home club 25 points after a visit from Harry Brind.

Gooch knew this yet was determined to avoid negative thoughts. When the morning rain eased and the lime-coloured pitch was unveiled, there were players who openly grimaced and shook their heads. Gooch was stoical. "You play on what you are given," he said. "The conditions are not so important as the way you play in them."

When the worst happened and the toss was lost it was time for such thoughts to be put into action. Instead, Gooch, Stewart and Smith

were out within eight balls, the total rooted on nine. Test matches have been won from less promising positions but, from then on, England were condemned to the sort of bat which never confronted them in Christchurch.

Gooch had taken his first delicate decision of the day in keeping faith with the men who won the first Test. Preferring Pringle to Lawrence was tactically contentious and a crushing blow for a man who had fought so hard to meet his fitness schedule for this match. Given what followed, however, it was seen to be the right selection for the medium-paced Watson, in the Pringle role, was New Zealand's most effective bowler.

The dramatic damage, however, was done by the faster bowlers. A third of the day's overs had been lost to the weather but the sun was shining on another sparse crowd, when Morrison was past. Gooch's outside edge twice in the opening over of the game. In his second, Morrison went one better and the captain was on his way, out in single figures for the third successive innings and caught behind for a fifth.

The likeliest interpretation of a rare lean patch is that he is simply suffering the occasional fate of every opener by getting out to a sequence of very good balls.

Stewart's dismissal was perhaps more disappointing for, by driving loosely outside off stump, he was out in a way which would rightly have been thought typical if he had

not so commendably eliminated the shot during his Christchurch century.

Robin Smith went first ball, to the third and much the best of Adam Parore's four catches. Moving down the leg side, Parore had to change direction as Cairns gained a big deflection, pad more involved than bat. He took the catch one-handed and at full stretch, in that instant quite probably confirming the end of Ian Smith's long Test career.

Parore and Cairns are two authentic Young Guns, men

who will be around for years and might easily form the nucleus of an improved New Zealand side. Murphy Su'a is a third and he was four overs into his first Test spell when he struck with the wicket of Lamb, who played crookedly on the back foot and dragged the ball into his stumps.

Hick, meanwhile, was living dangerously. Patel had put him down at first slip off Watson, and when he reached 20 he was dropped again, by Cairns in the gully. Having been given one innocuous bouncer first ball, however, he was 20 overs into his innings before he received another. Such is his weakness against the short ball, this smacked of charity or neglect.

The back-foot defensive technique, or lack of it, did eventually bring his downfall, although he was arguably unlucky to go. Umpire Dunne upheld Cairns' leg-before shout for one which seemed to be missing leg stump.

Reeve, never at ease but never less than tenacious, lasted 104 minutes, including another reprieve at slip, before Watson, returning for a long and impressive second spell, moved one away enough to take the edge.

Watson had at that stage taken one for nine in ten overs of unrelenting precision but he was tiring by the time his second wicket arrived, five overs from the close.

Lewis, who had batted with his usual elan, square-cut crisply against one of Watson's rare short balls and Cairns, at gully, took a stunningly sharp right-handed catch.

England were left with two consolations: the fact that if they missed catches had stuck they would by now have been fielding, and the reflection that first-day collapses are neither unknown nor terminal on this ground. Two years ago New Zealand were put in by India; from 85 for six they rallied to 391 and drew the game easily.

Border said in the West Indies last spring that, when the time came for Marsh and Boon to go, he would go with them. He is a great believer in solidarity, some would say at the expense of younger players knocking at the door, and to see his side being split up with the World Cup so close is not at all to his liking. It is no bad news for England, though.

Border fought hard to save Mark Waugh's place, as well as Marsh's, but the Australian selectors — Laurie Sawle, John Benard and Jim Higgins — having just seen Australia fortunate to escape with a draw in Sydney, and lucky to win in



Jump shot: Hick plays a bouncer one-handed with both feet off the ground

Border makes his point over Marsh's omission

FROM JOHN WOODCOCK IN PERTH

SO UPSET is Allan Border, the Australian captain, at the omission of his vice-captain and old cobber, Geoff Marsh, from the Australian side for the fifth and final Test match against India starting here tomorrow, that, by way of protest — a very explicit one, too — he stayed in Adelaide on Wednesday evening after the rest of his team had flown to Perth. By the time he rejoined them last night, they had had a day in the nets without him.

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Adelaide, thought they detected complicity and insisted on making changes.

Marsh is not complaining. He knows that his recent Test record — one hundred in his last 75 innings — is simply not good enough and that, like Waugh, he is almost sure to be back for the World Cup.

With so much being asked of all who take part at this level in Australia these days, it is hardly surprising that form — that of the umpires as well as the players — suffers.

Pack, fly, sign in, practise, sleep, practise, match, practise, match, late-night finish, cannot unwind, cannot sleep, early flight, fasten seatbelts, where are we going, doesn't really matter, sign in, unpack, practise, inter-costal niggles, heatwave forecast, practise, match, loud appeal, bad decision, television replay, physio, pack, airport check-in, practise, hit by bouncer, bone chipped, physio, where's my helmet?, send cheques to the bank, fasten seatbelts, unpack, practise, match, practise ... it just goes on and on and on, and it is taking its toll.

Mark Waugh could be a victim of this whistle-stop existence; of all the wear and tear, the more sensitive a batsman's game, the more likely he is to be. The India captain, Mohammad Azharuddin, another tough player, had made hardly a run in two-and-a-half months in Australia until he kept his side in the hunt with his dazzling century on Wednesday.

It was the sort of pitch, parched and slow, that Indians and Pakistanis are brought up on, and on which they can be so wonderfully inventive. It produced a result, which was what the Adelaide curator was hoping for after seven drawn Tests in his last eight, and an absorbing last day into the bargain.

Australia were finally rescued from defeat by the strength of Craig McDermott's bowling. Since coming back into the Australia side a year ago, after more than two years on the sidelines, he has taken 70 wickets in 11 Tests.

At that rate, as long as he avoids the cricketer's equivalent of metal fatigue, he will have 600 by the end of the decade.

GOLF

Richardson goes into lead with a faultless round

FROM MITCHELL PLATTS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN BANGKOK

STEVEN Richardson started this year's PGA European Tour season yesterday in much the same form that he maintained throughout most of 1991, by producing a spectacular 63 to lead the field in the Asian Classic on the Pinehurst course.

Severiano Ballesteros had a 65, to earn a share of second place alongside Mats Lanner, of Sweden, while Bernhard Langer and Ronan Rafferty

are among a group on 67 in the tournament.

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Langer and Ronan Rafferty

are among a group on 67 in the tournament.

The treatment, quite bizarre, left the Spaniard with about ten burn marks on his back, the size of beer mats.

He filled a plastic glass with alcohol, set fire to it and placed the glass on my back,"

Ballesteros said. "It was

extremely painful. He wanted

me to go back for more treatment, but I won't be seeing him again."

The slow greens are not to the Spaniard's liking, and he holed only one putt in excess of ten feet. The quality of his striking emphasised that he has kept his swing well into this winter. A wonderful three-wood at the 14th left the ball ten feet from the cup and he coaxed it in for an eagle three.

Ballesteros had started from the tenth, turned in 32, and extracted three birdies from his next five holes. But he struggled over the closing stretch when he suffered from fatigue. He got up and down from the back to save his par; he did so with the minimum of fuss.

His round, which equalled the course record, was a most impressive start. The young man from Hampshire said with a grin in his eye that he could not set himself a target for this year. To do so would mean a declaration that he is aiming to be No. 1 in the Volvo order of merit after finishing runner-up to Severiano Ballesteros last year. "I would be placing pressure on myself if I said that," he said.

He should not be concerned by such things, however. He provided every indication, with this first round that he is on course for a memorable year, especially as he will be playing in all the major championships, star-

ing with the Masters, to which Colin Montgomerie has now been invited. That will bring the number of Europeans at Augusta to ten.

Ballesteros, of course, will be one of them, and, like Richardson, he has every reason to be happy about his start to the year. Even so, he revealed to all the result of a visit to a Thai doctor who specialises in back problems.

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AUCKLAND SCOREBOARD

New Zealand won toss

ENGLAND: First Innings

	Wkts	oars	4s	5s	6s	Ball
*G Gooch c Parore b Morrison	4	—	1	15	12	
Ed Smith c Parore b Cairns	—	1	1	18	11	
Ed Smith c Parore b Cairns	30	—	3	130	86	
A J Smith c Parore b Cairns	0	—	—	2	1	
Played across late outwingers	13	—	3	47	26	
A J Lamb bowled Su'a	22	—	2	104	87	
Played at attempting back-foot force	22	—	2	104	87	
A J Stewart c Parore b Watson	23	—	6	89	87	
C C Lewis c Cairns b Watson	23	—	2	51	80	
†R Russell not out	8	—	1	21	18	
D R Pringle not out	9	—	—	—	—	
Extras (6, nb 3)	9	—	—	—	—	
Total (7 wkt, 59 overs, 266 min)	146	—	—	—	—	
P A DeFreitas and P C Tuheitu b bat	—	—	—	—	—	
FALL CATCHES: 1-Ed Smith, 2- (Smith), 3- (Smith), 4- (Lamb), 5- (Lamb), 6- (Lamb), 7- (Lamb), 8- (Lamb), 9- (Lamb), 10- (Lamb), 11- (Lamb), 12- (Lamb), 13- (Lamb), 14- (Lamb), 15- (Lamb), 16- (Lamb), 17- (Lamb), 18- (Lamb), 19- (Lamb), 20- (Lamb), 21- (Lamb), 22- (Lamb), 23- (Lamb), 24- (Lamb), 25- (Lamb), 26- (Lamb), 27- (Lamb), 28- (Lamb), 29- (Lamb), 30- (Lamb), 31- (Lamb), 32- (Lamb), 33- (Lamb), 34- (Lamb), 35- (Lamb), 36- (Lamb), 37- (Lamb), 38- (Lamb), 39- (Lamb), 40- (Lamb), 41- (Lamb), 42- (Lamb), 43- (Lamb), 44- (Lamb), 45- (Lamb), 46- (Lamb), 47- (Lamb), 48- (Lamb), 49- (Lamb), 50- (Lamb), 51- (Lamb), 52- (Lamb), 53- (Lamb), 54- (Lamb), 55- (Lamb), 56- (Lamb), 57- (Lamb), 58- (Lamb), 59- (Lamb), 60- (Lamb), 61- (Lamb), 62- (Lamb), 63- (Lamb), 64- (Lamb), 65- (Lamb), 66- (Lamb), 67- (Lamb), 68- (Lamb), 69- (Lamb), 70- (Lamb), 71- (Lamb), 72- (Lamb), 73- (Lamb), 74- (Lamb), 75- (Lamb), 76- (Lamb), 77- (Lamb), 78- (Lamb), 79- (Lamb), 80- (Lamb), 81- (Lamb), 82- (Lamb), 83- (Lamb), 84- (Lamb), 85- (Lamb), 86- (Lamb), 87- (Lamb), 88- (Lamb), 89- (Lamb), 90- (Lamb), 91- (Lamb), 92- (Lamb), 93- (Lamb), 94- (Lamb), 95- (Lamb), 96- (Lamb), 97- (Lamb), 98- (Lamb), 99- (Lamb), 100- (Lamb), 101- (Lamb), 102- (Lamb), 103- (Lamb), 104- (Lamb), 105- (Lamb), 106- (Lamb), 107- (Lamb), 108- (Lamb), 109- (Lamb), 110- (Lamb), 111- (Lamb), 112- (Lamb), 113- (Lamb), 114- (Lamb), 115- (Lamb), 116- (Lamb), 117- (Lamb), 118- (Lamb), 119- (Lamb), 120- (Lamb), 121- (Lamb), 122- (Lamb), 123- (Lamb), 124- (Lamb), 125- (Lamb), 126- (Lamb), 127- (Lamb), 128- (Lamb), 129- (Lamb), 130- (Lamb), 131- (Lamb), 132- (Lamb), 133- (Lamb), 134- (Lamb), 135- (Lamb), 136- (Lamb), 137- (Lamb), 138- (Lamb), 139- (Lamb), 140- (Lamb), 141- (Lamb), 142- (Lamb), 143- (Lamb), 144- (Lamb), 145- (Lamb), 146- (Lamb), 147- (Lamb), 148						

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- CRICKET 30
- RUGBY UNION 31

THE TIMES SPORT

FRIDAY JANUARY 31 1992

France relaxed on eve of Davis Cup tie

Pickard's plan hinges on an upset by Bates

FROM ANDREW LONGMORE
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT
IN BAYONNE

AS FRANCE proved so dramatically in the final in Lyons last year, team spirit can be a powerful force in the Davis Cup. But whether it can prove strong enough to sustain Britain's waver-thin chance of victory against the champions over the next three days in Bayonne is rather more doubtful. Despite the evidence to the contrary provided by Guy Forget, Henri Leconte and Yannick Noah, romance and emotion can only stretch so far.

By all realistic accounts the British team, which has done so well to earn back its place among the elite nations, will leave this pretty Basque town on Sunday with pride intact, fond memories and its hope of staying in the world group of the Davis Cup for another year resting on a relegation play-off next September. Any other thoughts are mere pie in the sky.

Tony Pickard, who has done so much to bring some much-needed confidence back into the British game in his first year as Davis Cup captain, will not, of course, countenance such defeatist talk, but even he appreciates the overwhelming imbalance of the odds.

"No one thinks we can win, but I am an optimist by nature and I have a lot of confidence in what I can achieve and a lot of confidence in what these boys can achieve," he said yesterday. "Our preparations have been good, the spirit is excellent and we've come here to do our best to win the match."

French names first; all times GMT
TODAY (1pm): H Leconte v J Bates; G Forget v M Petachy.
TOMORROW: (4.45pm): Forget and Leconte v Bates and N Broad.
SUNDAY (1pm): Forget v Bates; Leconte v Petachy.

As expected, Pickard relies on Jeremy Bates and Mark Petachy, the heroes in the defeat of Austria last September, in the singles and on Bates and the newcomer, Neil Broad, for the doubles on Saturday. Bates will open the tie against Leconte tomorrow in the one singles match, which, on present form, looks to be even. The British No. 1 is ranked 163rd, four places below the French left-hander, and he loves playing on the Greenset indoor surface. If he could dent Leconte's confidence — and remember the Frenchman is very short of match practice after a series of back injuries — and introduce some doubts into the minds of the champions, just as Leconte himself did in beating Pete Sampras in Lyons, then who knows what strange avenues might open.

Though it is asking too much of Petachy, ranked 256th, to beat Forget, the world No. 7, Bates and the South African-born Broad, who had given up thoughts of playing Davis Cup until he qualified to play for Britain 18 months ago, have enough experience at least to trouble the best of British cannot possibly be enough.

□ The Hague: Richard Krajicek, the Dutch No. 1, has pulled out of his country's Davis Cup tie against Switzerland today because of a shoulder injury. (Reuters)

tried to forget about the final. We have not looked at any videos of it nor talked about it. Leconte can beat Sampras, but he could have difficulty in beating Bates," he said.

"The important thing for us is that we are so close as a team; it's like a family and the friendship gives you motivation, whatever we are playing. When you are on court, the team is with you and within you."

Noah's priceless gift as a captain has been to instil his own irrepressible sense of fun into the members of his team, while, at the same time, sharpening their competitive instincts. Just as he pursues his own outside interests in music — he was named the new artist of the year by the French music industry and is starting work on another rock album — so he encourages his team to relax and enjoy themselves away from tennis. Preparations have included surfing — mainly by Forget — and a football match against a local side led by Serge Blanck, the region's favourite son. "It's important to get their minds onto other things sometimes," Noah said.

Under Pickard's leadership, the British team too has looked relaxed and confident, not necessarily of victory but of giving their best. But unless the magic of Lyons has deserted the champions and settled firmly on the shoulders of the visitors, even the best of British cannot possibly be enough.

□ The Hague: Richard Krajicek, the Dutch No. 1, has pulled out of his country's Davis Cup tie against Switzerland today because of a shoulder injury. (Reuters)

Wooosnam is taken ill

Bangkok: Ian Woosnam was put on an intravenous drip in a Bangkok hospital yesterday after being taken ill and airlifted from the Pinehurst course where he had been playing in the first round of the Asian Classic golf tournament (Mitchell Platts writes).

The Welshman, who was given oxygen during and after his round of 71, was

diagnosed as having contracted a severe attack of food poisoning, and was put on the drip to rehydrate lost body fluids. Woosnam, who was ill several times in the second half of his round, was escorted by medical advisers over the last nine holes of a five-hour round played in sultry conditions.

"I have never felt so scared

on a golf course in my life," he said.

"I woke in the morning not feeling well, but when I couldn't catch my breath on the course I was really frightened. I have to put it down to something I ate the night before."

"I couldn't understand what was happening because I could not lift my arms. I'd been training, too, to be ready for this week and next in Dubai, but food poisoning in this heat proved a bad combination if I wanted to die at the end of the round."

Woosnam's reluctance to retire pleased the sponsors and underlined his desire to retain the No. 1 place in the Sony world rankings. "I just thought that if I could hang in with a score of around par, then I might still have a chance to win," he said.

"I stayed in the hospital for five hours. I've been put on a 48-hour liquid diet but I'm going to continue to play. I feel I'm over the worst of it."

Woosnam's round put him eight shots off the pace being set by Steven Richardson, who equalled the course record with a 63.

Richardson on song, page 30

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the suggestion last week by the House of Commons All-Party Football Committee that the Taylor Report recommendations requiring all clubs to have all-seat stadiums should not be so stringently applied to members of the third and fourth divisions.

Noade's proposal that Premier League clubs should also be allowed to keep some standing areas is still unlikely to receive widespread Premier League approval.

"It's a good idea," Peter Swales, the Manchester City chairman and Football Association councillor, said. "But it hasn't got a chance. Our supporters don't like it, we don't like it, but we are obliged to accept the Taylor Report."

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April 1992

ARTS

Mark Gertler's
love for Dora
Carrington —
find his art.

LIFE & TIMES

FRIDAY JANUARY 31 1992

RK

HEALTH



Sunshine:
could more of
it help to save
your life?

England are
aware of
fish reality

BY ROBERT BROWN

Age has not wearied Shirley MacLaine, the archetypal Californian, nor custom stalled her infinite variety of passions, obsessions and right-on kookiness

Can it really be 33 years since I cut my hair in a fringe, having seen a picture of Shirley MacLaine in *Time* magazine? In 1959 they did a cover story on the new girls of Hollywood: Hope Lange, Tuesday Weld, etc. MacLaine's picture, captioned, "She's a kook, but warm," showed a bohemian with the now familiar gamine haircut, and wearing blue jeans. No conventional starlet she. Already she had a mysterious husband, and a baby, who lived in Japan. It made her peculiarly interesting, and she has sustained that interest for three decades, enough to be forgiven for writing six books about herself (two of them extremely irritating) when books by actresses, with honourable exceptions, are generally to be discouraged.

Having waded through her last book about *Inner Transformation*, *Going Within*, with its cosmic forces and karma and chakras and... tiresome California twaddle, it is a relief to find her earthbound in *Piccadilly* and disposed to laughter, even at herself. She is still in jeans with a bright pink jacket, the exact match of her lipstick. Age (rising 58) has not withered her but has made her a remarkably good character actress, who specialises in mothers of awkward daughters, and (her words) crabby old bairns.

In the most recent film, *Postcards from the Edge*, she was the Debbie Reynolds mother figure to Meryl Streep's Carrie Fisher. Of Streep she says: "For the first time in my life I felt I was possibly uncouth." (Not so.)

The filming left enough time to scribble her way through another book, *Dance While You Can*: this one is rooted in real life, which can be a bitch. When you're driving to the studio there's always a traffic jam on the freeway. Then you get to the make-up trailer and you vomit several times — readers are soon acquainted with MacLaine's innards, kidneys, nasal passages, knee-joints etc — and then you just get one leg into your tights when there's a knock at the door: a boy delivering fruit, or flowers, or health food: never a moment's peace to spin one's chakras.

But such mundane realities of a movie-star's life on set — the waiting, the weight-watching, the criticism — are very consoling. "Yeah," MacLaine says, "it's the principle behind tabloid journalism. Celebrities having troubles in their lives is what makes having no job and five kids worthwhile, right?"

She and her friend, Kathleen Tynan, "We're married, you know. We've been together now longer than most marriages" — are working on a script about the actress Louise Brooks, who captivated Tynan's late husband Ken.

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



the right thing, I think I was pretty shrewd." (Loud laughter.) She and Parker divorced in 1980, after 25 years of separate lives. She cannot believe she was ever that girl of 20 who married far too young, thinking it was for ever. It feels like another of her incarnations.

Such, their daughter, carefully protected from becoming a Hollywood brat, is now a good friend despite their childhood separations. She is 35: the age of some of MacLaine's friends — and "lovers". Oh, I said, "I thought you'd given all that up. She says so in the book, lauding the comfort and freedom of a sex-free life. ("I'm seen in many ways the feminine opposite of my brother, Warren [Beatty], with his legendary sexual appetite.") But it turned out to be just a phase.

"I'm finding myself more attracted to men who don't want all my time. It's great for them and it's great for me, because I may take off suddenly, my car steers itself to the airport. It has its own visa." She turned up at the *Evening Standard* Film Awards the other night on the arm of Andrew Peacock, the Australian politician, a friend for 13 years.

The single life has given her swathes of solitude. After filling the Palladium with a one-woman show, she likes "being by myself for weeks and months on end".

Plenty of time for the self-absorption that is the substance of her books, as of the latest from Gloria Steinem and Germaine Greer, all in their fifties and pursuing mid-life themes: They have all moved on from men, confronted age, and dissected their fallible and culminating aged parents.

MacLaine aphorises in her fore-

word that we must honour our father and mother, and she eulogises hers. Yet her father was dissatisfied, harshly critical, and given to larval jokes; her mother (now aged 88) was the clinging sort, who made it clear that Warren was the favourite because men are superior to women. Such self-denying mothers are in fact the manipulative ones. "Oh yes, she was the prize matriarch. And I look at her now and I'm not as upset as I was about her negation of her own life, because she did exactly as she wanted to."

Her parents called her Shirley after *Miss Temple*. But nobody ever pronounced Shirley Beatty as they ought (it as "Batey"), so she took her mother's maiden name, McLean, and, since nobody pronounced that properly either, renamed herself MacLaine. (Warren found it simpler just to add the extra 't', and is mispronounced anyway.)

She says she and Warren were driven towards stardom in order not to disappoint their mother, and to refute their father. "There was no way Warren and I would not become stars." Warren's new baby has been given their mother's name, Kathryn. The new (and surprised) aunt says the baby is "the cutest thing".

Talking of sexual athletes, we turn to the Bill Clinton affair. "What matters," MacLaine says, "is not what he's done, but his not acknowledging the women. It's not about sex, it's about attitudes to women. It's also about the public chastising of the press, for trading trash for cash."

"I think it's all very cathartic, even if it only makes us aware of how shallow we are. That's what Americans are all about: awareness. Not brushing things under the rug for the sake of tradition, which is the European way."

Americans and the British are, we reflect, like cats and dogs, a different species. Our feline self-containment, their upfront em-

tional tail-wagging. This is what underlies British resistance to MacLaine's visions and levitations, her visits to psychic surgeons who can plunge a fix into one's abdomen without breaking the skin, or perform open heart surgery by means of trances.

She has seen such things in Brazil recently — with her friend Bella Abzug as witness — but these would sound too sensational. "It's called the divine hand of God," she says. "The British think she is barking."

Only last night she had discovered, in an English magazine, a new way of meditating: "But you guys do have a sense of undeservability about self-reflection. You don't think you deserve to reflect on the self. You think it's self-indulgent and selfish. Self, self, self is a dirty word here. This polite English self-acceptance."

"Oh, I'm all right. I'm fine, I'm fine."

She is right: her *Inner Transformation* seminars, \$300 a throw, sound like torture to me.

MICHAEL POWELL

'I stayed married so that I wouldn't get married. I had some wonderful relationships inside the marriage'

lish-American accent. I am so glad I am your pinup."

"Strange, isn't it? He doesn't believe any of my stuff, and I don't know what he's talking about."

But she still rabbits on about "empowerment", and creating harmony. Okay, I said: start with those traffic jams on the freeways, where's the harmony? "You can look around you. Listen to an opera, or a book on cassette, that's very big now. A friend of mine met the woman he's going to marry in a traffic jam. Or you can reflect, why are you working in the city and not in the mountains? You have a fax, right? Maybe you could do different kinds of stories than coming to interview me."

In one scene in *Postcards*, she is seen in a hospital bed, bald and make-up less, pathetic, vulnerable. Then she slaps on the eyelashes and blusher and trips off to face the press. In real life, when hassled or injured and asking why the hell she's doing this, she retreats to her home in Washington state, and hugs a tree. Then, back on stage, she sings Sondheim's "I'm Still Here".

Today she flies to Switzerland to sing with her band at a birthday party. Then maybe she will go back on the road, with her old friend Sinatra. Dancing while she can, again. Why? She has said that from the age of 12, she burned to know how the universe works "and the role I played in it". There is the answer. She is the centre of her world. "Show business", as she says, "is all about wanting to be loved, wanting to avoid rejection."

She asks, on page 275 of *Dance*, what she calls the great question. "Should I devote myself to the deeper questions and continue my seminars, my writing, and perhaps help people investigate their own mysteries? Or should I indulge myself in bringing pleasure to people with my little songs and dances as I prance around the world enjoying being 'perky' in my advancing years? It was a puzzle." Puzzle no longer. Stick to high kicks and kooky old crones, Shirley.



When the going gets tough, the tough go and hug a tree: Shirley MacLaine, friend of the stars, the cosmos and Stephen Hawking

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A nightingale winced in Berkeley Square

NIGHT LIFE

Stephanie Calman on a treat that slowly became a trial



then hypnotising them with sounds that may or may not have been "Fly Me to the Moon" played backwards.

I've never heard music like it.

and I used to write for a music paper. Well, I once had something similar perpetrated on me by two men and a drum machine in a hotel in Split, but I had, with rehabilitation, erased it. This lot

turned out in black, and apparently nameless.

Smiling bravely, like the subjects of foster-a-child advertisements, they took up their synthesizers and all hopes of the live rhythms of the big band era were dashed once and for all.

"Toxedo Junction" merged into "Day-O", then became the theme from *The Godfather*, sung in a language almost without consonants. On "Chattanooga ChooChoo" they pressed more of the buttons. They sounded numb but happy: a little like people coming out of a general anaesthetic.

The maître d' appeared and asked, "Is everything up to your liking?"

The rest of the staff maintained the level of sensitivity normally shown to accident victims in order not to seem brusque by comparison I felt compelled to put my head on one side and say things like, "A further portion of lemon, if I may?"

Then some taped music came on. I recognised a couple of dance-floor favourites from the 1970s, followed by what sounded like the soundtrack for a spaghetti sauce commercial. For some reason, Hawaiian guitars featured heavily. No one danced. There were two men and a girl, nicely

ruching — a dramatic warning of the limitations of Austrian blinds — ate small mouthfuls holding the cutlery as if it were electrified.

Two Chinese lads in cricket jumpers drank cocktails. A man who looked like Kenneth Clarke talked, while his beautiful companion listened.

We skipped coffee. Still unable to define the ethnicity of the place, we interrogated Peter Lorre.

"It's Canadian," he eventually admitted.

The boyfriend has never been to the Hilton rooftop bar, which is dead romantic. So we whooshed up to the 28th floor, me promising him a breathtaking view and very grown-up ambience. We got breathtaking, all right. Since I'd last been there, spending the budget for my book launch on two Mai Tais, the rules had changed. The nice waitress said that it was just past 11pm but we could still buy their £6 drinks. It was just going to cost £12 extra for the experience.

"So," said the boyfriend, as we walked, freezing along Park Lane. "When do I get this treat for painting the kitchen?"

MONDAY
Libby Purves's working life

I made my reservation with the promise of the commercial crooning in my ears: "Dance to the live rhythm of the big band!" The voice from Jazz FM stayed with me long after the ad campaign had finished, and with the vision of a dream venue for eating, drinking and tangoguing from a formative cinema-going year. I've been waiting for a place like this since I was nine.

Actually, that wasn't the sole reason for making this the boyfriend's reward for painting my kitchen: it was also seeking an excuse to wear the diamante ear rings bought at Butter & Wilson three years ago for a film producers party that I couldn't go to because my escort took the host to court. (The marching bracelet, £5 from a Sixth Wholesaler in Soho, had to be quarantined after it shredded my right ear in a Manchester Airport just before I set off to 200 pool-sellers.)

When we got to Take Manhattan in Piccadilly, central London, my heart gave a little leap. I thought: I can play! Rita Hayworth in here, no problem — even in a £4.99 Next drip-dry. If you ignored the Blooms shopping list on my hand, I exuded a definite touch of glamour.

The boyfriend was despite his good jacket and tie, lightly flecked

THE NIGHT OF THE IGUANA: The National's 1992 season brings a new staging of Tennessee Williams's seedy drama of love and lust, directed by Robert Wilson. Starring Alun Coes, Ellen Atkins, Robin Baily and Frances Barber. Preview begins tonight, opens Thursday. Lyttelton (National), South Bank, London SE1 (071 828 2522), tonight, tomorrow 7.30pm.

WAR REQUIREMENT: The Royal Scottish Orchestra performs Benjamin Britten's powerful message on the futility of war, a message which has lost none of its relevance. The world is a present at the opening of the new Coventry Cathedral in 1981. Philip Ledger conducts, and the RSC Chorus and Junior Chorus sing. A strong solo team includes Margaret Marshall (who replaces Janice Carr), Robert Tear, and the National Chorus. Usher Hall, Edinburgh (031 228 1153), tonight, 7.30pm. Royal Concert Hall, Buchanan Street, Glasgow (041 332 3123; 041 227 5511), tomorrow, 7.30pm.

MARY BLACK: A household name in her native Ireland, Mary Black is at last beginning to develop the following she deserves. She offers a refreshingly repertive of songs inspired by traditional Irish music but with touches of blues, jazz, rock and pop. Albert Halls, Kensington Gore, London SW7 (01 580 1388), tonight, 8pm.

ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA: Tonight the company presents *Kenneth, Nicholas Hymen's bright, clean production of Handel's opera, now directed by Julia Horobin, and conducted by Michael Christie. A new production by Ann Murray in the title role, with Yvonne Kenny as Romilda, and Nermes Bailey as Andromeda. Tomorrow, Richard Jo's new production of the same opera, directed by James Fendeman, conducted by James Holmes, with Malcolm Donnelly, Vivian*

BECKETT: Reviving performances from Denis Jacob and Robert Lindsay in Anouilh's play on the relationship between Thomas à Becket and Henry II. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071 830 2282), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, Sun, 2pm.

BLIND WEDDING: Lovers' tragic romance in Cuba but the sexual passion is then blithely Lord (National) (Coates), South Bank, SE1 (071 928 2282) tonight, tomorrow, 7.30pm, and 8pm tomorrow, 2.30pm.

THE CABINET MINISTER: Benedict and Maureen Lipman in a sub-ben, largely unfunny Pinter comedy. Albany, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071 867 1113), Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat. Wed, Sat, 8pm.

DANCING AT LUGHNASA: Brian Friel's Oliver Award-winning memory, set in 1900s Ireland. Gielgud Theatre, Cross Road, WC2 (071 850 5085), Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat. Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm, 5pm.

AN EVENING WITH GARY LINAKER: Sometimes drab look at the fantasies of a woman married to a soccer nut. Dials, 10 Catherine Street, WC1 (071 464 5075), Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, Sat, 6pm and 8.45pm, 10.30pm.

FAITH HEALER: Stirring performances in Brian Friel's early play (four monologues) exploring a healer's doubts and sporadic powers. Royal Exchange, Sloane Square, SW1 (071 739 1749), Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sat, 8.45pm.

THE GIGI CONCERT: Garry Fisher is obsessed with making an Irish millionaire (Terry Boyle) the new Gigi in Tom Murphy's powerful *Almeida*, Almeida Street, N1 (071 329).

NEW RELEASES

BOUDI SAVED FROM DROWNING (PG). Welcome reveal of Jan Fenzl's anarchic pastoral (1982), with Michel Simon as the unregenerate tramp clasping to the bourgeois blouse. Plus Jean-Louis Trintignant's new of school days, *Zéro de conduite* (U). Fenzl (071 837 8402).

BLACK RIDGE (15). Seventeenth century Jules (Lorraine Blau) has to convert Indians in northern Quebec. Intelligent epic from Bruno Moon's director, Bruce Beresford. (071 837 8402). Fenzl (071 837 8402) (071 837 8402).

DOUBLE IMPACT (18). Jean-Claude Van Damme, the "muscles from Brussels", as two brothers fighting wrongs in Hong Kong. Lame action movie. Director, Sheldon Letlow. Columbia-Marble Arch (0428 914501) Plaza (071 497 9989).

HORSE LA VIE (15). Masterly account of a French horse's life in the turmoil of *Beau, Beau Brummel*, director, Maroun Bagdad.

CAMPIONE TOURNAMENT COURT (071 830 5149). Tennis on Baker Street (071 830 5149).

LIFE ON A STRING: Chinese silk, moon and lantern images, forever hovering on the brink of allegory, inspiring him from *Yellow Earth* director Chen Kang.

ICA GLOW (15). Technical blend of drama and madcap comedy.

MISS SAIGON: Macaulay Culkin's first kiss with Anna Chlumsky, Dan Aykroyd, Jamie Lee Curtis Director, Christopher Lloyd, director, Barry Sonnenfeld. (071 830 5149).

CURRENT

THE ADDAMS FAMILY (PG). Teasy family's dark, off-the-charts. Addams's macabre cartoon. Starring Raul Julia, Angela Huston, Christopher Lloyd, director, Barry Sonnenfeld. (071 830 5149).

DEALER NIMMO (PG). Deric Nimmo's first film, a grim recompence-flick, written by Arthur Pheasant. Directed by Peter Bowes. (071 830 5149).

SARA KESTELMAN & GWEN WATFORD

THE CABINET MINISTER

"The ideal entertainment for a grim recompence-flick, written by Arthur Pheasant. Directed by Peter Bowes. (071 830 5149).

THE COTTON CLUB

"An offbeat, all-singing, all-dancing musical by Stephen Sondheim. Directed & choreographed by Stephen Sondheim. Super! Wilson (071 830 5149).

THUNDERBIRDS F.A.B.

EXTENDED TO 27 FEBRUARY

WEEKEND EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Karen Knight

TERMAY AND ROSEMARY JOSHUA: Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (071 836 3161), tonight, 7pm, tomorrow, 7.30pm.

PINSKI ZOO: The energetic four-piece band, which won top prize at last year's British International Jazz awards, brings its enthralling blend of improvised jazz, funk and rock to London for one night only.

Waterman Arts Centre, Brentwood, Essex (01 508 1788), Sun, 8pm.

THE POCKET DREAM: Canadians Mark McShane and Kevin Tolwyn star in a new comedy drama presented by Theatre of Comedy. The Henry Irving Studio Players (managed by McShane and Tolwyn) are about to put on a version of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* but a cast walk-out is likely. With Louise Rio and Clive Mantel from the Whole Line is it *Anyways*? team and members of the Comedy Store Players. The production runs at London's Abbey Theatre from Feb 2-10.

PLAYHOUSE: Nottingham Circus, Nottingham (0602 419419), tonight, 7.30pm.

ERIC CLAPTON: Still going strong, the veteran rocker takes to the road with tracks from his recent live album, *24 Carat Honey*, and returns to the line-up including guitar player Andy Fairweather Low. Londoners will have to wait 18 weeks to see Clapton at the Royal Albert Hall, London (0273 228891), tomorrow, 7.30pm.

HALLE: The talented young Italian conductor, Carlo Rizzi, joins the Hallé in three weekend concerts. The programme tonight includes Rossini

(*Overture*, *William Tell*, *Requiem* (Three Bells) (see picture); Mendelssohn (Violin Concerto); Beethoven's *Choral*).

THE COVENT GARDEN FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA: Soprano Jill Gomez joins the CGFO, under the baton of Peter Ash, in a programme comprising Berg's *Seven Early Songs*, *Wozzeck*, together with string orchestra arrangements of Verdi's *Stabat Mater* and Schoenberg's *Verklärte Nacht*.

Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071 832 8800), tomorrow, 7.45pm.

LA FILLE MAL GARDEE: The Royal Ballet gives the 19th-century classic the seal of French Ashton's inimitable English comic ballet. Viviana Durante and Tetsuya Kumakura take the leads tonight, and Fiona Chadwick and Irel Macmillan follow, tomorrow.

Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (01 524 1080), tonight, 7.30pm.

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: Michael Tippett's *Three Places in New England*, George Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* — with Paul Crossley as soloist — and the composer's *An American in Paris* in the first of three concerts celebrating the 500th anniversary of Columbus's voyage to America. Soloists are Barbara Hendricks and Samuel Barber's eloquent *Knoxville Summer of 1915*.

BBC Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (071 638 8891), Sun, 7.30pm.

THEATRE GUIDE

JEREMY KINGSTON: Jeremy Kingston's assessment of current theatre in London

REVIEW: *Malice in Wonderland* (12)

PAINTING CHURCHES: *Saints* (12)

THE COTTON CLUB: "Smiling men and women prance around the stage, sometimes in sedate evening dress, sometimes in sequins and spangles."

THEATRE GUIDE

THEATRE

The Cotton Club

Aldwych

Vaudeville, The Strand, WC2 (071 838 9987), Mon-Fri 8pm, Sat 8.30pm, mat. Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 5.30pm, 140mins.

TALKING HEADS: *Patricia Routledge and Alan Bennett* excellent in three of their monologues charting the ups and downs of their humour and pain of decline, from *Comedy*, *Pantomime* to *Twelfth Night*.

LA TRIBUTE TO THE BLUES

ERIC CLAPTON

LONG RUNNERS: *Aspects of Love*, *Private Lives* (7-15)

PHANTOM OF THE OPERA: *Love Never Dies* (12)

THE RIDE DOWN MT MORGAN: *Alastair Miller's* disappoingnating play where Tom Conti argues the case for bigamy.

Wynyard's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071 887 1118), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat. Thurs, 2.30pm.

SOPHISTICATED LADIES: *Twinkie*, *Malice in Wonderland* (12)

SOUL MATE: *Malice in Wonderland* (12)

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LONG RUNNERS: *Aspects of Love*, *Private Lives* (7-15)

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THE RIDE DOWN MT MORGAN: *Alastair Miller's* disappoingnating play where Tom Conti argues the case for bigamy.

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GALLERIES

Messages from a man in distress

Richard Cork
reviews a British painter whose early promise did not come to fulfilment

Nobody could divine from the self-portrait painted by Mark Gertler at the age of 17, that his life would terminate in suicide just over 30 years later. Sporting a wide-brimmed fishing cap, with an embroidered scarf wound round his neck, he looks every inch the young bohemian. Cool and resolute, his gaze belongs to an artist confident of the precocious ability he had been given.

His retrospective at the Camden Arts Centre proves, however, that Gertler would never again feel so optimistic and assured. After all, in 1908, he had just been awarded a place at the Slade, then the most distinguished art school in London.

Financial assistance from the Jewish Education Aid Society had enabled him to enrol, for his immigrant father could never have afforded the fees. The Gertler family was large, and his parents had suffered great privation after they left Galicia in the latter years of the previous century. So Mark was fortunate to enter the Slade, where his poised draughtsmanship and portraiture soon won him awards.

He was lucky, too, in his fellow-students. With Stanley Spencer, Paul Nash and Christopher Nevinson among his contemporaries, supplementing the friendships he had already made with such East End neighbours as David Bomberg and Isaac Rosenberg, the company Gertler kept was continually stimulating.

But while most of them were attracted to the challenging new art disclosed in Roger Fry's Post-impressionist surveys, he preferred to haunt the National Gallery. No hint of the heretical Cézanne ruffles; the 1908 self-portrait, and a painting of his parents completed in 1910 is equally unwilling to ally itself with the avant-garde.

The picture's stylistic conservatism is not, however, marched by psychological timidity. At first glance the father in his wing-collared Sunday best appears to dominate. The strongest light falls on his acetic features while his wife remains half-hidden in the shadows behind. But

becoming a remote place in his eyes, inhabited by people like the *Jewish Family* who seem paralysed by melancholy and marooned in isolation.

By this time, Gertler felt torn in loyalties between his love of family and a commitment to new friends. The conflict within him was immense, and a disquiet erupts in the portrait of his brother Harry holding an apple. Frowning and smirking at the same time, the young man fixes his portraitist with a fierce, unsettling gaze.

Harry's mouth seems to be stained with crimson juice, and he holds a scarlet apple between pincer-like fingers and thumb. His baleful expression suggests that the preferred fruit may be poisoned. Perhaps Gertler used his brother as a symbol of the threat posed by adherence to the values of his childhood.

Although clenched hands indicate the strength of her will, they also convey an anxiety which might well have centred on his future. How could he earn a living from his art? And how soon would his new middle-class friends tempt him away?

Gertler was asking himself the same questions. They would continue to plague him for many years, and the economic problem dogged his life to the end. By 1913, after he had left the Slade and confronted the hazards of a career outside the art-school walls, they began to surface in his painting. A new, smaller portrait of his mother shows her in a different guise. Ensnared in the kitchen, with a spotted red scarf round her head and a dark apron shrouding her squat body, the matron has been immured into a peasant.

This is a woman accustomed to hardship, and the rudimentary utensils behind testify to the manual labour dominating her life. A dash of Cézanne seasons the form of the bowl, while Goldfinch's figure is simplified according to her son's newfound interest in Gauguin and Van Gogh.

She is seen, now, as an embodiment of "primitive" values, and therefore more distant from Gertler's increasingly sophisticated milieu. The East End was

at all events, by 1915 he had left the East End and settled in Hampstead, enormously relieved to break free from family constraints at last. The sense of liberation must have given him the energy to tackle the largest and most powerful painting he ever produced.

Merry-Go-Round, which

uses a funfair carousel as a

metaphor for the unstoppable insanity of war, is a macabre masterpiece. Gertler's most despairing feelings about the supremacy of aggression, and humanity's helplessness in the face of rechanneled barbarism, were channelled into the equivalent of a yell.

The most horrifying aspect

of this engulfing picture lies

in the glee with which each rider

remains ensnared in the

whirling a dizzying rhythms.

War is regarded as an insidiously addictive drug capable

of giving them the elation

they crave. Worse still, it re-

duces them to the level of au-

tomata. Soldiers and civilians

alike have been robbed of the

ability to experience real feel-

ing, and Gertler feared that a

similar malaise had blighted

his own relationship with the

unresponsive Dora Carrington.

Merry-Go-Round exposed

so much of his private and

social despair that Gertler

was weakened by the effort

involved in its execution. His

health, never robust, worsened with the discovery of tuberculosis. And his depres-

sions became acute, forcing

him for a while to abandon

work altogether in 1919.

After he rallied, Gertler

enjoyed a decade of success

with critics and collectors.

But he did so only by sup-

pressing his darker side,

which had given his pre-war

art and most bracing ten-

sions. By hanging *Merry-Go-*

Round in the middle of the

lance room, Camden's excel-

lent survey demonstrates how

superior is this eye-battering

picture to anything he painted afterwards.

Perhaps it frightened him,

and Gertler concluded that

he could only continue by

masking the emotional vortex

he had once revealed. Hence

the determined serenity and

ripeness of his post-war art,

where he often strives to vie

with Renoir as a celebrator of

women, fruit and flowers.

At his finest in the monu-

mental repose of *Queen of*

Sheba, the outcome has an

impressive finality. At his

weakest, however, the strain

of maintaining this equilib-

rium gives some of the canvases

a glassy, lifeless unreality.

Claustrophobic afflicts the

crowded still-life composi-

tions, implying a *horror vacui*

on Gertler's part. The failure

of his last exhibition hastened

the final attempt at suicide in

1939.

The loss to British art as a

result of his premature death

was substantial. Among his

final paintings is a vehement,

hieratic image called *The Red Shawl*, where Gertler seems

to be recovering his former

muscle and, with the help of a

painter's knife, developing a

new sculptural authority.

• *Mark Gertler's retrospective*

continues at the Camden Arts

Centre (071-435 5224),

Arkwright Road, London NW8,

until March 5.

CRITIC'S CHOICE GALLERIES

• **LARA KULKARNI:** When fire gutted Boosey and Hawkes' Regent Street music shop in 1990, among the losses in the fine Deco interior were six jute paintings by Anna Zinkeisen. For the carefully reconstructed company held a limited competition among art students for replacement paintings, and the winner — an invigorating and enterprising choice — was Lara Kulkarni from the Slade. Her work, which is abstract, but with musical references, is given a five-day gallery showing before installation.

Bernard Jacobson Gallery, 14a Clifford Street, W1 (071-495 8575) Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 10am-1pm, until tomorrow.

• **CHRISTOPHER BRAMHAM:** A newcomer to the Marlborough stable, Bramham produces deceptively sober and meticulous depictions of the suburban scene. But beneath the quiet patterns of greyish-green leaves and grass — usually under grey English skies — there lurks a vigorous concern for the hidden geometry. The balance between representation and abstraction gives Bramham's work its distinctive inner tension.

Marlborough Fine Art, 6 Albemarle Street, W1 (071-629 5161) Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sat 10am-12.30pm, until February 29.

• **SIMON LEWTY:** Lewty is undoubtedly a very English artist, and if that implies a degree of eccentricity, he probably would not argue. His works up to now, whether large or tiny, have involved elements of topographical charts, mysterious calligraphic inscriptions and distorted figures. In this new show the elements are as before, but in different mixes. Juxtaposition with a selection of works by David Jones underlines Lewty's place in an oddball tradition.

Austin/Desmond & Phipps (in association with Anne Berthoud), Pied Boulard, 68-69 Great Russell Street, WC1 (071-242 4443) Mon-Fri 10.30am-6pm, Sat 10.30am-2.30pm, until February 15.

• **BEN JOHNSON:** Consisting of "paintings and diverse objects", Johnson's new show suggests that he is in a state of transition. There are the familiar cool, elegantly formal depictions of architectural interiors, real and imagined, but there are also painted abstractions and related objects. Logical enough; it will be interesting to see where he goes from here.

Fischer Fine Art, 30 King Street, SW1 (071-839 3942) Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sat 10am-1pm, until March 5.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR



Gertler's portrait of his brother Harry: "Frowning and smirking at the same time ... a fierce, unsettling gaze"

At his finest in the monumental repose of *Queen of Sheba*, the outcome has an impressive finality. At his weakest, however, the strain of maintaining this equilibrium gives some of the canvases a glassy, lifeless unreality.

Perhaps it frightened him, and Gertler concluded that he could only continue by masking the emotional vortex he had once revealed. Hence the determined serenity and ripeness of his post-war art, where he often strives to vie with Renoir as a celebrator of women, fruit and flowers.

The loss to British art as a result of his premature death was substantial. Among his final paintings is a vehement, hieratic image called *The Red Shawl*, where Gertler seems to be recovering his former muscle and, with the help of a painter's knife, developing a new sculptural authority.

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JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

Queue here for a rare chance to play God

THEATRE

After an internal row, the York Mystery Plays will be staged indoors for the first time. Peter Davenport sat in on auditions

John, a former teacher turned antiques restorer, said he had already been paid and thought he might like to turn his hand to Lucifer this time, although he didn't mind trying for God. Lizzie, an art school model, had been a stripper with Noah; sang "Lili Marlene" at auditions; Derek Nichols, said as he paused during auditions: "It is not a question of there not being enough people to make up the cast; there are too many. Some will be disappointed."

The tradition of the Mystery Plays in York dates back to the Middle Ages, when the people of the city would take the Biblical stories of Adam and Eve, Noah's Ark, the Nativity and The Passion through the streets in a procession of 48 wagons. They were revived in 1951 as part of the York Festival, itself a contribution to the Festival of Britain. Now they are regarded as one of the most complete cycles in existence, each production eagerly anticipated and well attended.

But this year's is happening against an unhappy background. The original artistic director, the Australian Margaret Sheehy, was dismissed by the Festival Board after disagreements over her production proposals which, it was estimated, would have cost £300,000 to stage. That was thought too expensive.

Now, instead of being held in their traditional, open-air setting with the ruins of St Mary's Abbey on the banks of the River Ouse as a backdrop, they are to go ahead in the Theatre Royal between June 13 and July 11. They also have a new text, drawn from the original medieval and more recent versions, by Liz Lochhead, the poet.

How will audiences react to the changes? Undoubtedly for many the spectacular

BAILEY GREENWOOD



John Hall: he read for the roles of Lucifer and God the part of Adam, then delivers the Dream speech of Clarence, Duke of York from *Richard III*. This receives an appreciative response. "I have spent a year with a local youth theatre, and applied to several drama schools," he says. "I want to be in the Mystery Plays to work with a professional director and a professional actor."

Lizzie Donavan-Anne, 52, plays Pilate in the 1988 cycle of Mystery Plays. This time he wants to play Lucifer, but also reads part of God's address to Adam and Eve. "It's probably too old to make it as a professional actor now, but there is a special appeal about taking part in Mystery Plays," he says. "It requires a hell of a commitment but it's an enjoyable experience working in such a team."

Andrew Aitchison, 22, was a mechanical filter in the local railway works before being made redundant last year. He then decided to try and become an actor, something he had dreamed of since leaving school. He reads

TELEVISION REVIEW

Daniel Johnson

Anatomising abroad

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Public palaces worth preserving

As the anniversary of London's first public lavatory approaches, Marcus Binney celebrates some great British architecture

Thumb through the index of any number of social histories and you will find plenty of entries on public baths, public conveyances, public hygiene, but not on public conveniences. Given the long-standing architectural battalyness of function at all costs, this coyness is strange.

So the 140th anniversary on Sunday of London's first public convenience, in Fleet Street, prompts an investigation. The first question is: was it really the first?

That depends on a definition of "public". In the Middle Ages, public meant very public latrines were built out over London's rivers, and were so well patronised that the Fleet river ceased to flow at times. Lavatory paper did not exist. Patrons had to make use of stones and shells or a stick with a sponge in a container of cold water. The poor did rather better with bunches of herbs.

In the 18th century the emphasis was on still on the public. The robustness of our ancestors shocked the young Duc de la Rochefoucauld, who was studying English in Bury St Edmunds in 1784. He reported that at the end of dinner "the sideboard would be furnished with a number of chamber pots and it is common practice to relieve oneself while the rest were drinking. One has no kind of concealment and the practice strikes me as most indecent."

Given this Gallic sense of decency, it is no surprise that the French pissoir appears to have predated the British street convenience, which, according to Gordon Billie, the railway historian, "like the bar and the bookstall, had its origins in railway stations".

There were public loos, he says, in the first railway stations, notably at Liverpool Road, Manchester (1828) and Crown Street, Liverpool, at the other end of the line.

In London the abolition of cesspits and the development of architectural ceramic opened the way to a revolution in public hygiene. The Fleet Street convenience, whose opening in 1852 was announced in *The Times*, was a symbol of this.

The man credited with the transformation is George Jennings, who furnished the Crystal Palace with lavatories and fitted up the hospital at Scutari, in the Crimea. His catalogue of 1895 lists 46 towns, as well as many others, improved by public conveniences which he also supplied to 30 railway companies.

Go west towards Lincoln's Inn and in Star Yard, a narrow, paved alley off Chancery Lane is a perfect example of a cast-iron pissoir, now firmly padlocked, with characteristic lattice work at the top for ventilation. In Lincoln's Inn Fields, a traditional pavilion with ladies' and gents' is still in operation, appropriately rustic and cloaked in creeper. The entrance porches are in the manner of the architect Voysey, with dwarf art nouveau columns.

Neary in Holborn, in front of the Prudential building, is an example of one of Jennings's island conveniences. The gents' is approached down a miniature version of an imperial stair, with one flight branching into two. The railings and the tapering bollards

he specified survive. The elaborate central iron lampstand has intriguing openwork grilles in its base, explained by the fact that the lamp doubled as a ventilator.

Outside London there must be numerous public lavatories awaiting listing. Among the best known are those in Market Street, Hull, surrounded by a larger than lifesize equestrian statue of William III, while in Bristol, at Horfield Common, there is an ornate domed pavilion housing ladies' and gents' in Hindu Gothic style. Cast-iron urinals are to be found at Great Ayton in Yorkshire and Walkerburn, Peeblesshire. Among the best of all are the urinals on the pier at Rothesay harbour on the Isle of Bute. Here are 20 Twyford St Annes marble stools with six arranged in a central

hexagon. They are closed but the Strathclyde Building Preservation Trust is raising funds to restore them.

As pissoirs disappear they suddenly become chic. The new Gallerie Gautier in London's Draycott Avenue, has pissoir-style changing rooms painted green and suitably adorned with grilles top and bottom.

Today's architects make a virtue of putting the guts of a building on show with glass panels revealing the mechanisms of elevators and lifts. Jennings was doing this a century earlier with glass-fronted water cisterns. Those at Holborn and Hull reputedly had goldfish swimming in them to prove the water was clean.

Railway lavatories were often handsomely equipped. Euston in

the early days had first and second class gents' loos and the railways are said to have installed the first penny locks.

Glasgow boasted a ladies' that compared with the lavish one in Harrods, while that at Paddington was better known for the attendant's cat which reputedly weighed a hundredweight. Until recently St Pancras had a remarkable blue and white tiled gents', unfortunately in a sad state of delapidation.

The best place to find Victorian lavatories still in action, in full splendour and earthiness, is on the preserved railway lines. The Worth Valley line in Yorkshire makes a specialty of authentic loos. Here you can sample mahogany seats, slate urinals and study a whole range of Victorian cisterns and it closed within a few months.

LUCINDA LAMONT LIBRARY



In Rothesay's marbled stalls: the Isle of Bute's magnificent lavatories are closed, but the Strathclyde Building Preservation Trust is raising funds to restore them.



Lavish: the ladies' at Harrods

No place for a lady

America's example shows the danger of creating our own political First Lady



Experienced: Glenys Kinnock



Shy: Norma Major



Busy: Barbara Bush



Determined: Hillary Clinton

Professor Gould notes a contemporary report commenting that "prize fighters and dancers in public halls do not receive as much criticism as Mrs Lincoln".

The second Mrs Wilson effectively ran the country when her husband had a stroke, controlling all access to him, and Eleanor Roosevelt, Bess Truman, Lady Bird Johnson, Betty Ford, Rosalynn Carter and Nancy Reagan were all known — and occasionally criticised — for giving political advice to their husbands.

In Britain the royal family fulfils many of the ceremonial and charity roles which an American First Lady is duty-bound to undertake, Professor Gould suggests.

"It would be impossible for a First Lady to keep up any type of paid employment even if she wanted to," he says, "not just because of the volume of the work — a First Lady gets thousands of letters a week — but because of

those handle the job — but there are now some female governors and their husbands have married in analogous situations. But I don't think an American 'First Mate' could stay in the background like Denis Thatcher did."

A widower can survive in the White House, he says, "with grown children to take on some of the responsibilities — but I doubt whether a divorced man without a wife would be elected".

"Of the current crop of candidates, Governor Wilder of Virginia was divorced and Jerry Brown and Bob Carey are single — and I don't think any of them is going to make it," Professor Gould says.

The Kinnocks' symbolic, shambolic, "photo-opportunity" on the seashore at Brighton in 1983, after he had just been elected party leader, was reminiscent — bar the slip-up — of many similar, carefully-staged, American presidential scenes. Some badges which appeared afterwards suggested "Vote for Glenys", just as "Vote for Betty's husband" became an unofficial campaign slogan for Gerald Ford.

Set in a pub, it shows bright young people saying "Hey — I got the job — and it's got a great pension". They then debate pension schemes, with the predictable result. One young man bewails his late joining: "I've already lost five years' pension!" "Try 30," mutters someone in the corner.

The camera pans up to a cinema hoarding in the background: the film is *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*. Barks of mirth from the watchers. The young people on screen decide on a video instead. "How about," one says, *"The Evil Dead"*?

There is a devil's advocate, a bright girl called Sue. "You're trapped," she says to Frank, the company pension fan. "You're just being used for the company's convenience." Back in real life, everyone nods ironically. "We were." Younger faces look outraged: older ones break. To their credit they all laugh, a bit. But one director picked up the paper and stared with brooding sympathy at the story of the stranded Soviet astronaut. "Poor sod. Stuck up there with his country falling to bits, not knowing whether the next food-rocket will get there. He's the Maxwell Pensioner of space travel."

Politicians who make a perfect marriage part of their platform are "leaving themselves wide open", he says. Intimate questions can be asked because they are deemed to be a character issue.

"Once you start stressing family values and putting yourself forward for election as a couple, the quality of the marriage comes into play — and it's fair game."

VICTORIA MCKEE

© Times Newspapers Ltd 1992

Big men, little losers

As enquiries continue into the millions missing from Robert Maxwell's pension funds, a timely reminder of the human cost

My brother had invited me into his office for a "blue video show". Heighway Publications, latterly and reluctantly known as Maxwell Business Communications Marine and Fishing Division, is one of the dozens of small companies which, in their own phrase, "got stuck to the Maxwell flypaper" when AGB, their parent group, was bought by Maxwell two years ago.

Television news this week aired Maxwell's extraordinary 1988 video, appealing to staff to stay in the company scheme. But Harry Barrett, Heighway's managing director, had found a second, more startling example of the genre. It flickered through the boardroom, sparkling with ironies.

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Politicians who make a perfect



Left helpless: Harry Barrett with the Maxwell pension video

going to retire in two years. I reckon he's had half a million of mine. But what am I supposed to say to people who are worse off?

This week, the trustees announced the winding-up of six pension schemes in the AGB group; more liquidations are expected. The staff had hoped for a government safety-net, not least because they claim that IMRO, the government watchdog, gave a clean bill of health to their fund only six weeks before Maxwell died.

They also had hopes of the citizen's charter. But let's face it, ministers, election-distracted, have not been successful. One constituent of John Gummer received in reply only the curious boast that "I am someone who in the past refused to work for Maxwell precisely because everything I knew about him led me to believe that he was not an honourable man". Part of the current sense of smouldering injustice is the feeling that the outside world regards all Maxwell's workers as tattered with Maxwell's brush.

But it was never like that, says Peter Hul, Heighway's editorial director. The slave-trade of modern company takeovers mean that "We were swallowed". Maxwell bought AGB and we were in it. We never even saw him". But at the moment of takeover, not only their Heighway contributions but their whole career's worth of pensions

from other employers were at his mercy. One AGB worker had 20 years with Mars and transferred her benefits only last January.

The fact that this has never happened since company pensions began, in 1921, means that the human and moral implications are proving slow to register. So are the wider social ones. Unlike BCCI or Barlow Clowes investors, these are not high-return gamblers. They are modest, middling people who played safe, and still lost. Working life in Britain is underpinned by certain assumptions: ordinary people want a "steady" job, with a "reputable" firm and encourage their children towards such lives. They trust "officialdom" and "accountants and company lawyers to see fair play".

But now that all these safeguards have proved useless, now that even existing pensioners have been given no guarantee of payment beyond the next two months, and that nobody much seems to care, is the whole illusion to crumble? It might. Because unless someone rescues the Maxwell employees it is an unedifying fact that Frank and Sue in the video would have been better putting their money in a sock or drinking it.

Not perhaps quite the sober and cohesive social message the government wants to spread.

LIBBY PURVES

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So it is / is

LIFE & TIMES FRIDAY JANUARY 31 1992

MOTORING 7

So you think petrol is dear?

Kevin Eason on why the Chancellor should raise pump prices dramatically to make motorists more environment conscious

A year ago, the headlines stabilised almost daily at every bit in the oil sales chart. The robber barons were, it seemed, plundering hard-earned money.

What happened to the oil barons? Have they suddenly decamped to some balmier spot on the globe where they can bleed motorists dry without interference, making a gallon of their petrol as expensive as a bottle of Bollinger?

Or was the entire row a half-baked myth of exploitation? Petrol prices have been going up and down — in recent weeks but have commanded barely a tabloid paragraph and little more than a passing mention on television and radio?

A year ago, oil companies were the bane of the face of capitalism because petrol reached record levels at 240p a gallon for four-star during the Gulf conflict.

They protested at the time it was not their fault. They had to pay the market rate for crude oil and bulk petrol... but everyone refused to believe them.

Even though the oil companies were cleared of operating a price cartel in September 1990, they were back at the Office of Fair Trading a few weeks later answering charges that they were cashing in on the Gulf war.

As soon as the Gulf war was over and the markets were reassured

that oil supplies were safe, prices stabilised and started to fall.

Now, at around 218p a gallon, four star prices are as low as at any time since before the war and lower in real terms than at any time in three decades.

Remarkable figures provided by statisticians at Shell show that it took the average worker in Britain just over 30 minutes to earn the price of a gallon of petrol in 1964.

This year, that time has sunk to below 15 minutes.

In spite of the cost of discovery, shipping, refining and delivery to the pumps, petrol remains one of the cheapest commodities on the market in Britain today.

The result is that fuel consumption has risen from just over 20m tonnes a year in 1985 to 24.3m tonnes in 1990, while average mileages over that period have risen from 9,300 miles a year to 10,600.

Cheap petrol breeds carelessness about economy. The fact is that as long as fuel is cheap, motorists are happy to fill their tanks and drive on regardless of worries over pollution or even congestion.

A rail trip between Birmingham and Euston in London costs, for example, £49 standard return but £74 for a first-class fare. Losing half an hour in a traffic jam may be irritating, but it is hardly the end of the world when a full tank

of petrol for the average executive car costs about £20 and will carry four occupants there and back.

That differential in prices is underlined when the government wants to force motor manufacturers to find economy gains in fuel consumption of 50 per cent by the end of the decade.

The 80 miles to the gallon car may be less than a decade away, but what indiscipline is there to buy it when petrol is so cheap that drivers care little what it costs to fill the tank?

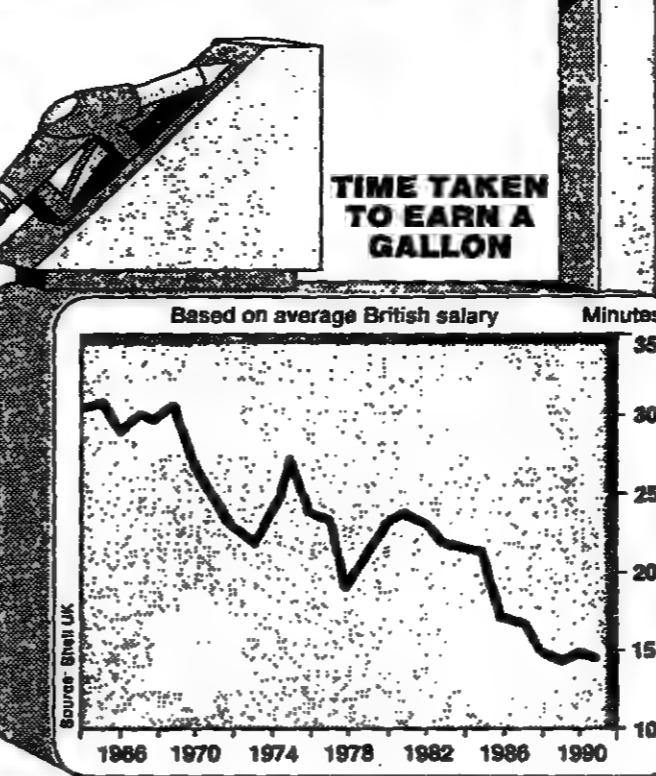
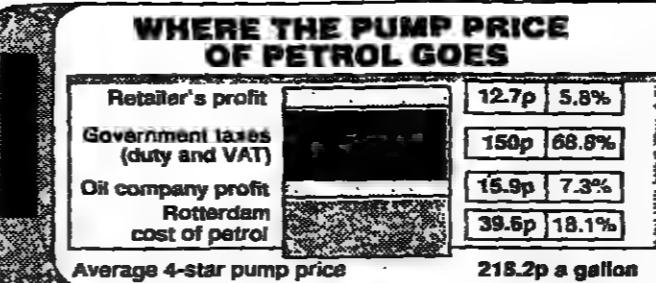
Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, has the chance to redress the balance and set a new attitude towards fuel prices in his Budget.

His easiest way out is not to upset anyone and to leave drivers and the motor industry well alone without any major changes to taxation and fuel duties.

If he takes his courage in both hands, he will raise the duty on petrol by as much as 20p to offset any concessions there might be in relieving taxation in other areas. He may also raise the level of awareness of fuel economy among motorists.

A straw poll among colleagues shows that few even know the cost of a gallon of four-star. Yet huge savings are possible — as much as ten per cent in petrol cars simply by careful driving, and up to 30 per cent by switching to diesel.

Industry has campaigned for a



bigger differential between petrol and diesel prices, which has proved troublesome to the Treasury. Officials in the Department of Transport have voiced criticism over diesel's reputation as a dirty, smelly fuel and its engines as noisy and inefficient.

Yet tests on the most recently developed engines show that diesel is a feasible and acceptable alternative. Because less fossil fuel is used, there are lower emissions of toxic gases and lower output of carbon dioxide, the main contributor to global warming.

Carlton's case for diesel

ROADWISE

I have spent the past week driving Vauxhall's 2.3-litre diesel-powered Carlton executive model, a car which is a mainstay of company fleets, appealing to managers with its roomy interior and big boot. Kevin Eason writes.

The Carlton is rival for the Ford Granada, Rover 800 or many other models in an executive class where middle managers expect their firms to pay out around £16,000 for a company car.

However, the competition is increasingly about whether to

switch to diesel or not. The 2.3 TD, for example, offers about 100 brake horse power, slightly less than the 2-litre, fuel-injected Carlton saloons.

But company drivers would pay less tax in the 2-litre car simply because it fell conveniently into the government's system of tax thresholds even though the car returns fuel consumption around town of about 25mpg compared with the bigger-engined diesel's perfor-

mance of more than 32mpg. The diesel, as a 2.3-litre model, attracts a bigger tax penalty.

That is a nonsense which could be addressed now by the government by implementing a bigger gap between petrol and diesel prices, and instituting a simple new list on personal benefits for drivers of diesel cars.

Without action on March 10, Mr Lamont and his successors will have lost another year in which they could have helped the move towards lower fuel use and lower emissions.

Invisible gas peril

ROADWISE

EXHAUST gases will be studied in Britain's first experiment to measure the effects of acid air on asthmatics.

The study, financed with £50,000 from the British Lung Foundation, will assess the levels of acid, sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and other pollutants and their effect on 60 adult asthmatics in Birmingham. Dr Jon Lamont, one of the chest physicians conducting the study, says: "The incidence of asthma has been increasing in the Western world in recent years and, although our air looks cleaner since the Clean Air Act, we are seeing a rise in the less visible photochemical pollution caused largely by vehicle exhaust fumes."

Tuppercars

TUPPERWARE, that symbol of Seventies living suggesting plastic bowls used by housewives on Barratt estates, has taken delivery of 750 Peugeot 205s for its managers.

Bigger menu

MORE than 300 new entries appear in the new Michelin Red Hotel and Restaurant Guide to Britain. The book has lists of more



Fleet tips

EXPERTS from Ernst & Young, the City accountancy firm, and The Henley Management College's automotive management centre will offer advice on cost control at the Fleet Motor Show at the Silverstone circuit, Northamptonshire, from March 23 to 27. Fleet managers will be able to test-drive cars of their choice. Further details are available from Tasha Davey on 0733 63100.

Charity run

BILL TURNER, the Lord of Mayor of Birmingham, covered 1,600 miles in three days in a Daimler this week visiting 22 fellow mayors from Newcastle upon Tyne to Plymouth and from Swansea to Norwich. The sponsored drive, planned by the RAC, was to raise funds for the Turning Point and Mencap charities.

Booming BMW

BMW increased its European sales last year by 13.5 per cent in spite of the motor industry depression. Nissan's sales were up by 11.5 per cent, thanks mainly to the production surge at its new manufacturing base at Washington.

than 4,240 hotels and 1,000 restaurants, all chosen for quality and with the touring motorist in mind. The guide, costing £10, is available from good bookshops.

The newcomer

RENAULT will unveil the Safrane, its executive car for the 1990s to replace the Renault 25, at the Geneva Motor Show in March. To combat severe competition in the executive sector, Renault executives have produced a car that promises exciting new features, such as active suspension to enhance roadholding, anti-lock brakes and a breed of engines including a 170bhp 3-litre V6.



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CARE OF THE ELDERLY

Long life need not break the bank

As the old get older, the young start to worry about the burden. Jeremy Laurance allays the fears

A person born today can expect to live half as long again as one born at the beginning of this century. Life expectancy has increased from 48 for men and 52 for women to 72 for men and 77 for women, a 50 per cent rise within three generations.

But this remarkable gain is viewed as a cause for concern, not celebration. The 20th century has seen an unprecedented rise in the population aged over 65, from 4.7 per cent in 1901 to 15.8 per cent today. At no other time in history have elderly people made up such a large proportion of Britain's population. The rise has prompted fears that we may not be able to care for them.

However, these fears have been greatly exaggerated. The number of people aged over 65 will fall in the 1990s for the first time this century, and the graph will not turn up again for 20 years. In 1991, Britain's dependency ratio — the proportion of the population made up by non-productive children and retired people — stood at 40 per cent. By the end of the century it will rise by only 1 per cent because of an expected increase in the birth-rate and will then remain constant until the second decade of the next century. Then will it rise again to a peak of 46 per cent in 2036.

As William Laing, a health economist, points out in a recent report, "The Challenges of Ageing", this should not be too much for a modern economy to bear. The rise in unemployment to its peak of over three million in the mid-1980s, from around 500,000 in the 1960s, represents "more than half the magnitude of additional dependency that the ageing population will create by the peak year of 2036". The demographic timebomb is a damp squib.

In one respect, however, demographic change will impose a



The hand of kindness: the number of very old people is certain to increase but it is not known how dependent on others they will become

strain through the rise in the very elderly aged 85 or more. Their numbers are projected to grow by almost a third, from 865,000 to 1,146,000, between now and the end of the century. "The crucial and at present unanswerable question", says John Grimley Evans, the professor of geriatric medicine at the University of Oxford, "is whether this increase in survival in

later life is because older people are fitter than their predecessors or because the unfit are being kept alive longer by medical and social interventions".

That the number of very old people will increase is certain. What is not known is how dependent they are going to be.

Some experts take a pessimistic view, arguing that prevention of

illness in adult life will merely postpone it to old age where "the burden will finally fall", in the words of the government green paper, "The Health of the Nation".

But this ignores evidence from the United States which shows that the longer an old person remains fit, the shorter is the average period of any disablement

before death. Prevention in later life not only delays dependency, but also diminishes it — and its associated costs.

There is also new evidence that prevention and treatment in later life are effective, contrary to long-held opinions. Control of high blood pressure with drugs or changes to the diet, at least up to the age of 80, reduces the risk of

strokes. Giving up cigarettes rapidly reduces the risk of heart attacks even in people with established coronary heart disease. Old people who keep control over their lives and have a network of friends also survive better. "We do not have to accept the present pattern of disease and disability in old age as 'inevitable,'" says Professor Grimley Evans.

Of course you don't. Even children find not being in control of their daily lives frustrating and embarrassing. Happily, there is a company that cares about retaining your self-respect, your quality of life, your freedom of choice.

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Burden of love: most carers take the duties willingly



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SAM TANNER

Who cares for the carers?

Isolated and tired, those looking after dependent relatives need someone to fight their corner, says Jill Pitkeathley

Britain's six million carers are tired of the struggle. "I don't want to fight all the time - fight for information, fight for services, fight for help," says one, summing up how many of them feel. Most care for elderly and disabled people provided by family and friends, but until recently this has gone largely unrecognised.

If the carers' vital contribution to what the government calls Care in the Community is at last acknowledged, it is probably because this is a problem which almost everyone has faced, is facing or expects to face within his or her own family. The commitment of successive governments to the policy of caring in the community rather than in institutions, the increasing age of the population and constraints on public spending have meant that more and more families are finding that services are simply not available when the need arises and that they are expected to cope with no support. Most families undertake this responsibility willingly, but increasingly find that they have to battle for information, services and for someone to listen to them.

It is not difficult for politicians and service providers to reach agreement about what should be done to help carers. Everyone knows that they need information, adequate benefits, practical help in the home and some time off. The new systems

of community care which come into operation in 1993, when the National Health Service and Community Care Act is fully implemented, aim to make support for carers a reality. Much time and energy is being spent to enable carers to participate in planning the way services will be delivered. For most

carers though, the changes will come slowly and may make little difference. As one says: "1993 will be too late for me."

This particular carer, a man of 78 looking after his wife who has Alzheimer's disease, has not had a

break from caring for three years - nor has he had an unbroken night's sleep in all that time. Next week he is going on an outing without his wife to one of our local carers' support groups. There he will be able to chat with other people in the same situation, get useful ideas about services and how to obtain them and have a breather

from his carer duties, safe in the knowledge that his wife is being looked after by a sitting scheme organised locally.

However great the financial and practical stresses, there is no doubt that the emotional stress carried by carers is what they find most difficult. Caring isolates you. It means you often lose contact with your friends and the rest of your family. It means you become locked into a closed emotional system in which it seems quite unacceptable to think about your own needs. You can lose your feeling of value as an individual in society and can quickly be made to feel that your opinions count for nothing. One of the reasons that carers' support groups are so valuable is that carers can find a means of reassessing their own worth and have the opportunity to discuss their problems with people who are not judgemental.

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judgemental.

Perhaps more than anything else, carers need recognition that they are carers - to be able to acknowledge themselves as carers. People do not understand the word "carer". "I am not a carer," they say. "I am a wife, a mother, a son." They see the caring tasks which they perform as something which is absolutely necessary to do. "It's my duty, isn't it?" they say. "I married him for better or for worse after all." So before they can begin to look at what their own needs for help might be, they have to be encouraged to see themselves as carers.

The work of the Carers National Association helps carers to make this vital recognition and this year we are planning to launch a campaign which we are calling "Listen to Carers".

In the course of the year-long campaign we aim to give more of our nation's six million carers a chance to speak out about their needs and to encourage professionals such as general practitioners and social workers to listen to carers and tailor services to their needs.

We hope the campaign will make the general public - and of course the politicians and policy-makers - aware that this is not someone else's problem. Because they provide 90 per cent of community care, everyone knows someone who is a carer. Yet most of them still receive no help whatsoever. The burdens placed on



Jill Pitkeathley

them, which most accept willingly, are increasing daily. We must act now to ensure that their lives are made more tolerable.

The author is the director of the Carers National Association, 29 Chilworth Mews, London W2 3RG (071-724 7776)

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Nursing help for people needing care: Sue Allen, the matron, and Doreen Stirling-Wylie at the PPP Wimbledon Beaumont home in London

Staying well at home

What would happen to you if you were elderly, lived alone, and found increasing difficulty with tasks such as bathing and dressing? Would you need to give up your independence or would you rather be helped to stay in your own home?

Private health insurance, from companies such as Bupa and Western Medical, has long offered cover for episodes of acute medical care. Equally, many have schemes for retired people. Premiums for the retired also attract tax relief, even when taken out on a parent's behalf.

The independent sector has also moved into "close care", providing nursing care for older people with varying levels of dependency and in a variety of options. However, the government has recognised that most people would prefer to stay at home for as long as possible in its Care in the Community proposals, due to come fully into effect in April next year, under which local authorities would be responsible for services designed to look after people at home.

Insurers have only discovered a market niche — that of covering long-

term care — in the past year. Six companies have started to operate in this area: Commercial Union, PPP Lifetime, Cannon Lincoln, MGI Prime, Aetna and Eagle Star.

Broadly, the schemes offer insurance cover for the services needed when age or disability means people are no longer fully independent. The trigger for benefit is when the policy-holder cannot perform two, three, or four defined daily activities, such as bathing, dressing, using the lavatory or eating, and is receiving care. Most, although not all, policies cover mental impairment as well as physical frailty.

To give an idea of the levels of premium and benefits that might be expected, PPP Lifetime provides benefits of £800 a month (or around £10,000 a year) with full progressive cover. A man entering the scheme at the age of 60 would pay a premium of £50 a month. For a woman of the same age on entry it would be £52. A man aged 70 would pay £95 a month.

However, Nahat said, the government white paper, Caring for People, indicated that local authorities would pay nursing home fees.

But perhaps there is a sound reason for politicians to be unwilling to tackle the issue. A report, "The Challenges of Ageing", published last September by the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry, noted: "In contrast to acute health care provided by the NHS... most state funding of long-term social care is means tested."

"Given the future of long-term social care, it may well be inevitable that government, of whatever political colour, will... provide a safety net only for those without means."

Colin Redman, managing director of PPP Lifetime, says: "That would certainly coincide with our views. State assistance is quite limited; if people have assets over £3,000, and if they go into long-term care, they are already having to meet, in most circumstances, all of the cost themselves."

He adds a warning: "It is important that long-term care cover should be provided by a plan that cannot be cancelled by the insurer and must remain in force if the policy-holder pays the premiums."



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A short cut to treatment

Elderly people do not complain and so do not get treated as quickly

Older people are not demanding enough and, as a result, do not receive the level of medical attention that the rest of the population has come to expect. That was the thrust of comments by some eminent physicians late last year during the launch of a Royal College of Physicians' report on preventive medicine (Pat Blair writes).

Family doctors are an important gateway to other services, whether through referrals to medical specialists, home nursing services or "social care" agencies. If an ailment has not responded to treatment, it is not unreasonable to ask for a consultant's advice: specialists, by their nature, are likely to be more up-to-date in their field, although GPs often have an interest in a particular area.

Under government reforms, some family doctors, "budget holders", have been given funds by the health department to buy services for their patients, wherever they can get them. Some GPs have contracts with local hospitals for speedy treatment, or can refer patients to hospitals with short waiting lists.

For patients of non-budget-holding GPs, the district health authority decides whether it will pay for treatment in a hospital in another area with shorter waiting lists. In this respect, government reforms have reduced patient choice: under the old system, any family doctor could theoretically refer you to any National Health Service hospital in the country.

The College of Health, which runs a telephone helpline for consumers, carries computerised information on waiting lists in 12 specialities and offers advice on how to get the best out of the system. For example, Ealing Hospital, west London, has probably one of the shortest waits in the country for orthopaedic referrals to both our patients (one month) and in-patients (a month). Bridgend General Hospital, in West Glamorgan, claims no waiting list at all for hernia operations; in a Rugby hospital

Mr. John Yates, the research fellow at the University of Birmingham, says: "Waiting times are more important than in-hospital lists. In England, there is little doubt that the long-wait lists are coming down each quarter. That's the good news."

"What we don't know is whether it has been done at the expense of in-patient waiting times, because the NHS doesn't record in-patient and out-patient waiting times."

Mr. Riggs says: "Clearly it is a problem if it's regarded as a solution to waiting lists to say, 'Well, if I can't see you within two years, I'm not going to take you on to the waiting list at all.' Although that might help to make the figures better, it isn't helping the patient."

There have been reports in the medical press of GPs saying they have had patients referred back to them from hospital and we have had one or two patients saying the same thing. But we haven't any statistical evidence that is happening."

According to past research by Mr. Yates, the 60s do not slip to the end of queues. Middle-aged groups are under-represented on long-term waiting lists.

• College of Health waiting-list helpline: 081-923-1133 (Monday to Friday, 10am to 4pm).

Orthopaedics: hip/knee replacements etc					
	Number	6-11	12-23	2+ years	on list
	months	months	months	months	(%)
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Worst: Tameside	164	1	0	0	0
Best: Bristol	70	3	15	15	56
Worst: Faversham (SW London)	1,063	25	31	25	25
Wolverhampton	581	25	29	23	23

Ophthalmology (cataracts etc)					
	Number	6-11	12-23	2+ years	on list
	months	months	months	months	(%)
Best: Dewsbury	107	1	0	0	0
Croydon	227	1	0	0	0
Worthing	124	0	0	0	0
Best: Bridgend	1,060	30	32	6	6
Worthing	53	40	37	6	6
Wolverhampton	576	35	33	4	4

Equipped with the right tools

Technology for the elderly — equipment to help them get on with their daily lives — is often regarded as a Cinderella subject... or worse.

"It's an area of awful neglect," says Professor Jim Sandhu, head of the Special Needs Research Unit at Newcastle Polytechnic. "Britain has about 12 million pensioners, at least 1.5 million of whom require help from somebody else."

There is research on the elderly, the professor says, but most of it is into the ageing process — subjects such as memory failure or hand-eye co-ordination. Little research is done on equipment.

There are, however, a few exceptions. The most notable are the Brunel Institute for Bio-engineering, an independent institute at Brunel University, near Heathrow, and Remap, a charity whose 2,000 or so members, many of them engineers and technicians, design and build specialist equipment for the disabled and the old.

Brunel aims to give elderly people what Professor Heinz Wolff, the institute's founder, calls "tools for living". Surprisingly, perhaps, the work goes on side by side with the institute's work on space research. This combination is not as odd as it seems, Professor Wolff says. An arthritic person who perhaps cannot see very well is not all that different to an astronaut. Both are ill-matched to their environments.

The institute's aids for the elderly are often "low-tech" devices that restore lost or impaired function.

George Torrens, a Brunel designer, for example, is looking at ways around "hand dysfunction", hand problems associated with arthritis and other crippling diseases. If an person's hands are crippled with arthritis, holding a pan may be a big problem.

One simple solution may be to equip even the smallest pan with a second handle, such as those that are standard on the largest type of pan. The team will also look at types of grips, including perhaps one where the pan is lifted by the wrists rather than the fingers.

The difficulty with products for old people and the disabled, says John Wright, a consulting engineer and Remap's part-time national organiser, is that mass-produced goods are often inadequate for particular needs.

"All sorts of trays and adaptations can be attached

to wheelchairs, for example, but because a person may have a limited movement in a particular limb, the standard adaptation does not completely suit the individual's requirements."

Two technological areas in which there has been progress are telecommunications and alarm systems.

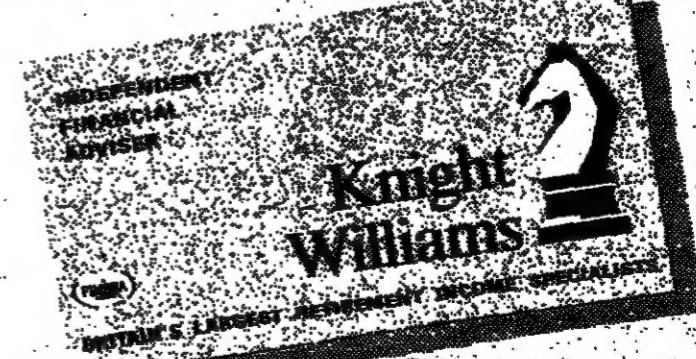
Many of the developments in telecommunications are

aimed at the confused who may wander without notice and endanger themselves.

Earlier this month a report from the charity Counsel and Care which advises old people and their families on residential and nursing homes suggested that the ethics of devices like this needed to be widely debated.

• Malcolm Brown

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BBC 1

8.00 Ceefax (56851) 8.30 Breakfast News (5082257)
 9.05 Kirby, Robert Kirby-Silk chairs a topical discussion (4296870)
 9.50 Hot Chicks. Ruth Rogers and Rose Gray prepare spaghetti with anchovy sauce and parmesan (2082219)
 10.00 News, regional news and weather (5515603) 10.05 Playdays (s) (699803) 10.25 Stopgap and Tidyup, Cartoon (t) (2365180) 10.35 No Kidding, Mike Smith hosts the family quiz (s) (1721238)
 11.00 News, regional news and weather 11.05 Travel Show Extra, The holiday magazine visits Cornwall, Turkey and southern Scotland (7351219) 11.30 People Today (8813677), including at 12.00 News, regional news and weather 12.20 Pebble Mill (s) (4329239) 12.25 Regional news and weather (7234489)
 1.00 One O'Clock News and weather (13957)
 1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) (9326789)
 1.50 Film: The Last Hunt (1956). Tough western with an ecological message about the confrontation between a sadistic buffalo hunter (Robert Taylor) and his more civilised partner (Stewart Granger). Directed by Richard Brooks (6707797)
 3.30 Lifeline. The actor Tom Conti appears on behalf of the Howard League for Penal Reform (t) (6137615) 3.40 Cartoon (t) (8127283)
 3.50 Children's BBC: Bitsa, Recycling household junk (s) (6131431) 4.05 Mr Nobody's Eyes, Josie Allard reads a story for Jacky (9315661) 4.20 The Further Adventures of SuperTed, Cartoon (t) (1353328) 4.30 Take Two, Sarah Green looks at a day in the life of Newsround (s) (6785500) 4.45 Newsround Extra looks at Orbis, a charity that aims to help the blind (5223336) 5.05 Grange Hill, (Ceefax) (s) (6267431)
 5.35 Neighbours (t) (Ceefax) (s) (3174764). Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster
 6.00 Six O'Clock News with Peter Sissons and Moira Stuart. (Ceefax) Weather (493)
 6.30 Regional news magazine (883). Northern Ireland: Neighbours (r) (Ceefax)
 7.00 Wogan, Conversation with Terry and guests (s) (232889)
 7.35 Headlines, the Headlines, American comedy series, (Ceefax) (s) (602290)
 8.00 Grace and favour, Another 30 minutes of doubles entendres as the former staff of Grace Brothers prepare to welcome a party of Americans at their country hotel. Starring Mollie Sugden, John Inman and Wendy Richard (Ceefax) (s) (1754)
 8.30 Caught in the Act, Sharon Richie introduces further home video put-takes. (Ceefax) (s) (48229)
 9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Michael Buerk. (Ceefax) Regional news and weather (7783)
 9.30 Love Hurts, Cured, Protracted comedy series about a millionaire's unrequited love for a charity organiser. Starring Adam Faith and Zoe Wanamaker. (Ceefax) (s) (655783)



Running for victory: Mark Lee and Mel Gibson (10.20pm)

10.20 Film: Gallipoli (1981)
 ● CHOICE: The gifted Australian director, Peter Weir, offers a disenchanted view of his country's involvement in the Turkish campaign of 1915 which saw huge losses for little result. The film stirred controversy by suggesting that while Australian forces were dying in their hundreds, the British were sitting on the beach and drinking tea. The charge is sustainable but the suicidal attack on the Turkish trenches is the climax of the film, not its essence. At heart it is the personal story of two young men (played by Mel Gibson and Mark Lee) who become friends as athletes, are determined to help the war effort but hit a number of obstacles before they can proceed to the Gallipoli peninsula. (Ceefax) (907086), Northern Ireland: Sportscene (604851); 10.45-12.35am Film: Harry and Son (51670344)
 12.10am Film: The Stranger Within (1974), suspense thriller about a woman whose unborn child begins to control her behaviour. Directed by Lee Philips (5325333) 1.20 Weather (4202401)

BBC 2

8.00 News (1922698) 8.15 Westminster (5646325)
 9.00 Daytime on Two: France Francaise (737220) 9.15 Teaching Today (260493) 9.45 Watch (t) (641712) 10.00 Look and Read (r) (3962206) 10.20 Around Scotland (r) (272223) 10.40 into Music (s) (9872203) 11.00 Diez Tones (148323) 11.15 English Express (4631832) 11.35 TV6 (5198141) 12.00 English File (32431) 12.30 Scene (51054) 1.00 Short Circuit (r) (4981169) 1.20 Greenclaw (r) (6198356) 1.35 Crystal Tops and Allstar (t) (2151655) 1.40 English Time (61088124)
 2.00 News and weather (1807068) followed by 2.05 Words and Pictures (7058520)
 2.15 Weekend Outlook, Open University preview (t) (18060219)
 2.20 Sport on Friday, Introduced by Helen Rollason. The line-up is (subject to alteration): Cricket: New Zealand v England. Second day of the second Test from Auckland; Snooker: Preview of the Benson and Hedges Masters, which starts this weekend; Ice Skating: An assessment of Brian's medal hopes in the forthcoming Winter Olympics at Albertville; Bobsleigh: A preview of tomorrow's second-round five nations championship matches between England and Ireland and Wales and France; Football: A round-up of the week's FA Cup fourth round action, including at 3.00 News and weather, and at 3.50 News and weather, regional news and weather (5982239)
 4.00 Catchword, Paul Coe hosts the word game (s) (986)
 4.30 Behind the Headlines, Shyama Perera looks at survival tips for the 1990s (870)
 5.00 Cricket: The Second Test Match - New Zealand v England. Highlights of the second day's play from Auckland (3367054)
 5.35 The Clothes Show, A repeat of Sunday's programme, shown on BBC1 (s) (312306)
 6.00 Thunderbirds: City Wolf, Gerry Anderson's 1960s puppet series (r) (Ceefax) (122431)
 6.50 Doctor Who: The Mind Robber (b/w). Patrick Troughton stars as the Doctor in the first of a five-part story from 1968 (t) (493851)
 7.10 100 Per Cent, The magazine for teenagers looks at designer Rifat Ozberk's tribal fashions; samples French, English, Portuguese and Russian food; and previews the week's events (s) (561783)
 8.00 Public Eye: Back to the Blackboard? Mike Baker reports from France where primary schoolchildren are still taught the three Rs (9306)
 8.30 Old Garden, New Gardener: Features, Geoff Hamilton and Gay Search restore garden features by plugging a leaky pond, weeding a rock garden and relocating a manhole cover. (Ceefax) (1141)
 9.00 Victoria Wood as Seen on TV, A repeat of the comedian's still fresh first comedy series from 1985. With Julie Walters (r) (5325)



Will he, won't he? Kendo Nagasaki and Peter Blake (9.30pm)

9.30 Arena: Masters of the Canvas
 ● CHOICE: The pop artist Peter Blake once confessed to *The Sunday Times* that his fantasy was to be the undefeated wrestler Kendo Nagasaki. In a sort of variant on Jimi's *Fixx*, Mary Dickinson's film tries to arrange for Blake to meet his idol and paint his portrait. Playing the Jimi Savile role is Paul Yates, a poet and fan of both men. There is a snog, Kendo Nagasaki never removes his mask and never gives interviews. The terror of the wrestling ring has always been determined to remain anonymous. But will he make an exception for the BBC? Dickinson milks the suspense for probably more than it is worth, for even if Kendo was to take off his mask most of us would not be the slightest bit wiser (44870)
 10.30 Newswise with Sue Cameron (886615) 11.15 What the Papers Say (704734), Wales: Wales in Westminster
 11.30 Scrutiny, The work of Parliament's select committees (95073). Wales: 11.45 What the Papers Say 12.00 Weather (744472)
 12.05am Behind the Headlines (r) (5350913). Ends at 12.40

ITV VARIATIONS

ANGRIA
 At London except: 2.20pm-3.15 Match of the Month (1704628) 3.15-4.00 The Country Show (1704629) 4.00-5.15 Comedy (1704630) 5.15-5.45 Comedy (1704631) 5.50-7.00 Anglo News (685344) 10.45 Cross Question (807672) 11.40 Tour of Duty (917818) 12.35am-1.05 Drivin' Dancing (703248)

CENTRAL
 As London except: 2.20pm-3.15 Donut (1704628) 3.15-4.00 The Country Show (1704629) 4.00-5.15 Comedy (1704630) 5.15-5.45 Comedy (1704631) 5.50-7.00 Anglo News and Away (170507) 6.25-7.00 Central News (685344) 10.40 Central Weekend (825372) 12.10am-1.05 The Equalizer (9731352) 2.05am Hand of the Devil (9731353) 3.40 The Hit Man and Her (857200) 4.40-5.20 Central Undercover (92771454)

GRANADA
 As London except: 2.20pm-3.15 Donut (1704628) 3.15-4.00 Doctors (1704629) 4.00-5.15 Comedy (1704630) 5.15-5.45 Comedy (1704631) 5.50-7.00 Anglo News and Away (170507) 6.25-7.00 Central News (685344) 10.40 The Man (9731352) 12.10am-1.05 Sleuth (9731353) 2.05am Hand of the Devil (9731354) 3.40 The Hit Man and Her (857200) 4.40-5.20 Central Undercover (92771454)

TWS
 As London except: 2.20pm The Sullivans (1704621) 2.50-3.15 The Young Doctors (1704622) 3.15-4.00 The Country Show (1704623) 4.00-5.15 Comedy (1704630) 5.15-5.45 Comedy (1704631) 5.50-7.00 Anglo News (685344) 10.40-11.00 Tour of Duty (917818) 12.35am-1.05 Drivin' Dancing (703248)

HTV WALES
 As London except: 8.00pm Wales at Six (8.30-7.00) Stopwatch 10.40-11.40 The Night at the Swansons Festival

TSW
 As London except: 2.20pm The Sullivans (1704621) 2.50-3.15 The Young Doctors (1704622) 3.15-4.00 The Country Show (1704623) 4.00-5.15 Comedy (1704630) 5.15-5.45 Comedy (1704631) 5.50-7.00 Anglo News and Away (170507) 6.25-7.00 Central News (685344) 10.40-11.00 Tour of Duty (917818) 12.35am-1.05 Drivin' Dancing (703248)

CHANNEL 4
 As London except: 2.20pm-3.15 The Sullivans (1704621) 3.15-4.00 The Country Show (1704622) 4.00-5.15 Comedy (1704630) 5.15-5.45 Comedy (1704631) 5.50-7.00 Anglo News and Away (170507) 6.25-7.00 Central News (685344) 10.40 The Man (9731352) 12.10am-1.05 Sleuth (9731353) 2.05am Hand of the Devil (9731354) 3.40 The Hit Man and Her (857200) 4.40-5.20 Central Undercover (92771454)

TV5
 As London except: 2.20pm Yan Can Cook (1704621) 2.50-3.15 Coming of Age (1704622) 3.15-4.00 Sons and Daughters (1704623) 4.00-5.15 Comedy (1704630) 5.15-5.45 Comedy (1704631) 5.50-7.00 Anglo News (685344)

HTV WEST
 As London except: 1.50pm The Young Doctors (1704621) 2.00-3.00 More (1704622) 3.30am-4.05 Music (1704623) 4.00-5.15 A Country Practice (1704624) 5.15-5.45 Comedy (1704630) 5.50-7.00 Anglo News (685344) 10.40-11.00 Tour of Duty (917818) 12.35am-1.05 Drivin' Dancing (703248)

SKY ONE

As London except: 2.20pm-3.15 Wild (1704621) 3.15-4.00 The Country Show (1704622) 4.00-5.15 Comedy (1704630) 5.15-5.45 Comedy (1704631) 5.50-7.00 Anglo News and Away (170507) 6.25-7.00 Central News (685344) 10.40-11.00 Tour of Duty (917818) 12.35am-1.05 Drivin' Dancing (703248)

SKY TWO

As London except: 2.20pm-3.15 The Young Doctors (1704621) 3.15-4.00 The Country Show (1704622) 4.00-5.15 Comedy (1704630) 5.15-5.45 Comedy (1704631) 5.50-7.00 Anglo News and Away (170507) 6.25-7.00 Central News (685344) 10.40-11.00 Tour of Duty (917818) 12.35am-1.05 Drivin' Dancing (703248)

SKY THREE

As London except: 2.20pm-3.15 The Young Doctors (1704621) 3.15-4.00 The Country Show (1704622) 4.00-5.15 Comedy (1704630) 5.15-5.45 Comedy (1704631) 5.50-7.00 Anglo News and Away (170507) 6.25-7.00 Central News (685344) 10.40-11.00 Tour of Duty (917818) 12.35am-1.05 Drivin' Dancing (703248)

SKY FOUR

As London except: 2.20pm-3.15 The Young Doctors (1704621) 3.15-4.00 The Country Show (1704622) 4.00-5.15 Comedy (1704630) 5.15-5.45 Comedy (1704631) 5.50-7.00 Anglo News and Away (170507) 6.25-7.00 Central News (685344) 10.40-11.00 Tour of Duty (917818) 12.35am-1.05 Drivin' Dancing (703248)

SKY FIVE

As London except: 2.20pm-3.15 The Young Doctors (1704621) 3.15-4.00 The Country Show (1704622) 4.00-5.15 Comedy (1704630) 5.15-5.45 Comedy (1704631) 5.50-7.00 Anglo News and Away (170507) 6.25-7.00 Central News (685344) 10.40-11.00 Tour of Duty (917818) 12.35am-1.05 Drivin' Dancing (703248)

SKY SIX

As London except: 2.20pm-3.15 The Young Doctors (1704621) 3.15-4.00 The Country Show (1704622) 4.00-5.15 Comedy (1704630) 5.15-5.45 Comedy (1704631) 5.50-7.00 Anglo News and Away (170507) 6.25-7.00 Central News (685344) 10.40-11.00 Tour of Duty (917818) 12.35am-1.05 Drivin' Dancing (703248)

SKY SEVEN

As London except: 2.20pm-3.15 The Young Doctors (1704621) 3.15-4.00 The Country Show (1704622) 4.00-5.15 Comedy (1704630) 5.15-5.45 Comedy (1704631) 5.50-7.00 Anglo News and Away (170507) 6.25-7.00 Central News (685344) 10.40-11.00 Tour of Duty (917818) 12.35am-1.05 Drivin' Dancing (703248)

SKY EIGHT

As London except: 2.20pm-3.15 The Young Doctors (1704621) 3.15-4.00 The Country Show (1704622) 4.00-5.15 Comedy (1704630) 5.15-5.45 Comedy (1704631) 5.50-7.00 Anglo News and Away (170507) 6.25-7.00 Central News (685344) 10.40-11.00 Tour of Duty (917818) 12.35am-1.05 Drivin' Dancing (703248)

SKY NINE

As London except: 2.20pm-3.15 The Young Doctors (1704621) 3.15-4.00 The Country Show (1704622) 4.00-5.15 Comedy (1704630) 5.15-5.45 Comedy (1704631) 5.50-7.00 Anglo News and Away (170507) 6.25-7.00 Central News (685344) 10.40-11.00 Tour of Duty (917818) 12.35am-1.05 Drivin' Dancing (703248)

SKY TEN

As London except: 2.20pm-3.15 The Young Doctors (1704621) 3.15-4.00 The Country Show (1704622) 4.00-5.15 Comedy (1704630) 5.15-5.45 Comedy (1704631) 5.50-7.00 Anglo News and Away (170507) 6.25-7.00 Central News (685344) 10.40-11.00 Tour of Duty (917818) 12.35am-1.05 Drivin' Dancing (703248)

SKY ELEVEN

As London except: 2.20pm-3.15 The Young Doctors (1704621) 3.15-4.00 The Country Show (1704622) 4.00-5.15 Comedy (1704630) 5.15-5.45 Comedy (1704631) 5.50-7.00 Anglo News and Away (170507) 6.25-7.00 Central News (685344) 10.40-11.00 Tour of Duty (917818) 12.35am-1.0